

Community Issues Report

THIRD QUARTER 2004

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

10/1/04

Meredith Corporation WHNS Fox Carolina

COMMUNITY ISSUES

7/1/04 – 9/30/04

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
-------------	-------------	----------------

Sundays (airs weekly)	5:30 am	BUSINESS WEEK
--------------------------	---------	---------------

DESCRIPTION: Up-to-the-minute reports present an interpretation of each week's business and financial news for the average viewer and summarize the key economic events from around the world that directly affect every consumer in America. (30:00)

July 9, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
--------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION:

A man who lost nearly \$1.2 million when Carolina Investors went bankrupt last year is organizing a meeting of other investors next week to discuss a \$42 million settlement with former officers of the company. Bob Pierce, who was one of the company's biggest investors, said the court "rushed to judgment" in accepting the agreement that will pay investors about 15 cents for every dollar lost. "We just did not push hard enough on the defendants," Pierce said. About 8,000 investors lost more than \$275 million when Carolina Investors and its parent company HomeGold suddenly ran out of money in the spring of 2003. It is the largest bankruptcy ever in South Carolina. Pierce, whose losses made him an adviser to the bankruptcy court, has paid his own money to rent a room at the Palmetto Expo Center in Greenville for the meeting at 2 p.m. Wednesday. Pierce said he became concerned after the court complimented attorneys for their swiftness in resolving the complicated case. Investors need to know more about the process used to return their money, Pierce said. He also wants to know how they feel about the settlement. If there are problems with the settlement, the case would likely go to trial and that would cost both sides millions of dollars, bankruptcy trustee Ralph McCullough said. "I know (the settlement is) not as much as they'd like to have, but from a practical standpoint, it's as much as they're going to get," McCullough said. Investors will also have a chance to publicly talk about the settlement in court in the next two to three months before U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr. decides whether to accept it, McCullough said. If the settlement is rejected a trial could lead to investors getting back even less, said Greenville lawyer Johnny Hagins, who worked with McCullough to get as much money back as possible for the investors. Most of the \$42 million settlement comes from insurance policies that will be depleted by mounting legal fees, Hagins said. "This is a probably situation if we went to trial: Two years from now, when we get around to collecting the money, we'd find you don't have \$41 million, you would have \$31 million," Hagins said. Larry Madden isn't happy with the settlement. The Pickens man lost his plan nursery after Carolina Investors went under and thinks investors should take the former company officers to court even if it means getting less money back. "I think all of us are in agreement that even if it is less money, it is in our best interest that these people that stole our money lose their automobiles, lose all their money," Madden said. "These people need to suffer like a lot of these investors have suffered." But Hagins warns investors against what he calls "people thinking with their heart." "I'm still mad," Hagins said, "I wish the truth was that somebody hid it in an offshore bank account, but they didn't, at least not that I know of."

July 1, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

The Department of Agriculture says a North Carolina meat processor is recalling tons of chicken because of a possible deadly contamination. The [USDA](#) says Crestwood Farms is voluntarily recalling more than 400,000 pounds of frozen, precooked meat that may be tainted with Listeria. The recalled products were shipped to institutional customers nationwide. Newspapers report each case of chicken bears the establishment number "EST. 17400" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The recalled products were produced between May 3 and June 17 and shipped to institutional customers nationwide. No illnesses have been reported associated with the recalled products. The bacteria can cause an uncommon but potentially fatal disease with symptoms of high fever, severe headache, stiffness and nausea. Consumers with questions about the recall can call the company at 336-751-4751.

July 5, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Cell phone companies want to take your number and make it public-- for everybody to see, including telemarketers. Verizon Wireless is the only company that has said it will not make its customers' numbers public. But other major carriers are in favor of a 411 wireless directory-- and most customers we talked to don't like that tone. When you get a call on your cell phone-- odds are you gave the person calling your number. Unlike your home phone you don't have to worry about annoying telemarketers or bill collectors. J.R. Christy says, "I don't need telemarketers calling my cell because it's dedicated to family/business and it'll be better if it is not published." Privacy is the reason why many people buy cell phones. But some major cellular companies want to take your private number and make it accessible to just about anybody who wants it. It's like 4-1-1, but for cell phone numbers. Cynthia Hailstock says, "I'll be getting calls nowhere out of the blue and they will be charging me and if I don't want to be bothered why should I be forced to pay." Now federal lawmakers want to make sure everybody who has a cell phone has full control over their number. Legislation now sits in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Under the proposals wireless carriers would have to obtain clear permission from all existing customers before including the user's name and phone number in the directory. New users would be able to "opt out". But opting out could come with a monthly charge-- much like your land line. "To not have your number listed and pay for it I think is incredulous, I'd be totally against it," says Mike Sellers. The legislation would also restrict companies from charging customers for opting out. Mobile companies say the legislation isn't needed and the options under the proposed law will already be available to customers. But some say the legislation is needed to guarantee privacy.

July 5, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Thunderstorms knocked out electric service to about 35,000 customers in the Upstate and Midlands of South Carolina. Storms blew down branches, toppled power lines and dropped hail across the Upstate on Monday afternoon. Nearly 10,000 Upstate residents and businesses lost power, said Duke Power spokeswoman Paige Layne. Wind gusts hit about 65 mph, said meteorologist Wayne Jones of the National Weather Service in Greer. "Severe thunderstorms do that in the summertime," Jones said. "They build up real quickly to great height and become severe real quickly." It was the second day that storms knocked out power to Upstate residents. The 4,200 customers that lost power on the Fourth of July had it back Monday, Layne said

July 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Cell phones have come a long way in a very short period of time, and someday the new technology could save your life. Not only can you still make the basic phone call, but you can get a phone that's equipped to send e-mail and surf the web, take a still shot picture with 1.3 pixel clarity, and even have a palm pilot built right into your phone. Randy Lindsey, the area marketing manager for Sprint here in Greenville says, "now these phones even have the capability where you can video tape yourself for up to 15 seconds." The newest feature to cell; phones is GPS (Global Positioning System) technology. That feature is now mandated by the FCC and all cell phone companies are required to have it.

Lindsey says, "if there is a safety issue, the GPS technology gives first responders the ability to track your location and find you even if you are unable to communicate." It's been a big help to 911 centers around the county. Donna Allen, the communications administrator for the Greenville Police Department 911 center, says, "It has been helpful, it helps us go right where the people are." GPS technology can help a 911 center in finding you in an emergency, but they say that if you can talk, it helps them even more by alerting them to the exact cause of the emergency so the right assets can be sent to help you. "Technology is always changing," says Allen. "Sometimes we can track someone to within five to ten feet." There's no doubt about it, technology is changing so fast it's hard to keep up but one thing is for sure, technology is improving life for everybody.

July 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

It is wise to keep your personal information close to the vest. If you're not careful, it could wipe you out financially. FOX Carolina Crime Specialist, Ed Munn, talked with one woman who learned this lesson the hard way. A few nights ago, a Simpsonville woman shared with us a nightmare that we all could face. It is called identify theft. Thieves used her name and Social Security number to establish credit and go on a buying frenzy, leaving her with a credit report that showed outstanding debt to the tune of a half million dollars. When I spoke to Debra Pendley on Monday, she was beside herself. She had applied for a credit card and had just received a rejection letter. She check with TransUnion, a credit reporting company, to find out why. "I thought it might be one or two small things...(but it) really surprised me," Pendley said. Yesterday she didn't know what to do, but today there has been some progress. "I felt a lot better today...knowing that it's being handled," she said. Because the amount was so high-over \$500,000-I directed Debra to the Secret Service and they've already made progress. "(a Secret Service agent has) already started calling...a lot sooner than what I thought (they) would", commented Pendley. The Secret Service is not the answer in every case. If your credit has been breached by someone who has stolen your identity here's what you should do. Contact local police and file a report for identity theft. Then contact the credit bureau by phone explaining your situation, and then write a follow-up letter with all the details and send it certified mail. The credit bureau should correct the mistake. "If not, then you are left with the possibility of having to file a lawsuit to rectify the damage that's been done," said Beattie Ashmore, a Greenville attorney. Ashmore is a former federal prosecutor who is now in private practice. He has seen how these identity thieves operate. "These people are very devious; these are very complicated schemes...it is very difficult to prosecute these cases," he said. It is up to you to protect your credit. "It's essential that you keep ...(tabs)...on your credit history," commented Ashmore. Debra has certainly learned her lesson. "I'm not going to be as open...as I was," she said. Don't let yourself become a victim. Check your credit report on a regular basis and never give out your Social Security number unless you are required to by law.

July 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Darlington Raceway is reducing some ticket prices for its only 2005 Nextel Cup race. The Carolina Dodge Dealers 500 is scheduled for May 7, the Saturday night before Mother's Day. The track announced this week that seats in the Tyler and Pearson Towers, which usually go for \$110 each, will cost \$95 for the spring race. Seats in Brasington Grandstand in turn 2 will be cut to \$70 from \$80, the track announced. Prices for Wallace Grandstand (\$85) and Colvin Grandstand (either \$70 or \$45) will remain the same. The falling prices come after NASCAR's oldest superspeedway has endured many changes the past few years. Its fall race, the Southern 500, was moved from Labor Day weekend to November for this year and removed from the track for 2005. Darlington's spring race was shifted from late March to Mother's Day weekend, traditionally an off week for Nextel Cup. Next year's event also will be run at night. The track is getting ready to debut its new lighting system next month with an exhibition featuring Jeff Gordon, Cale Yarborough and David Pearson. "We are very appreciative of our many fans who have remained loyal throughout the recent changes at Darlington, and are glad to have this opportunity to thank them by offering a significant price break," track president Chris Browning said. Darlington is looking for its second-straight fall sellout. This past March, then president Andrew Gurtis greeted a crowd of about 65,000 that he called the largest in the history of Darlington's spring race.

July 23, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Testimony was cut short Friday afternoon in the securities fraud trial against Larry Owen. Owen is the former president and CEO of Carolina Investors. The firm shut its doors March 15, 2003, leaving 8,000 investors -- mostly from the Upstate -- wondering what happened to their collective \$278 million in investments. Fox Carolina's Tami Birckner has been following the trial. She says today's early recess came after testimony breaks down the defense's theory that Owen told investors only what he knew and never lied to anyone. "I asked him point blank ... I said Mr. Owen ... I have heard that Carolina Investors is in some way affiliated with Home Gold, is that true? He told me that they were at one time but at this time we are not affiliated with Home Gold in any way ... period," testified Alvin Johnson. Johnson says that promise from Larry Owen is why he entrusted his \$190,000 to Carolina Investors. Alan Landreth says he fell victim to similar promises during a 2002 phone call with Owen. "You don't have any reason to pull your money out Mr. Landreth," is what Landreth testified Owen told him, and that his money was guaranteed. Landreth went on to say that he asked Owen, "how is that the case ... and he told me that it was guaranteed by more than adequate assets in Carolina Investors." CPA Gary Rank has been an Elliot Davis auditor working with Carolina Investors for several years. Rank testified that Owen was told auditors became skeptical of the future of Carolina Investors back in 1998, and says he told Owen just that during a meeting with auditors and Carolina Investors executives and board members. Rank then testified that a letter Owen sent to investors Barbara and Gene Gregory on May 8, 2002 contains information Owen knew wasn't true. Rank told jurors that Owen wrote Carolina Investors was "in the best financial condition that they have been in the past 4 years." Rank says, "that is not a true statement ... In fact they were in what I consider to be the worst financial condition they had been in in the last 4 years." Court was expected to resume at 2pm Friday afternoon, but after a short recess for lunch, attorneys met behind closed doors for more than 2-hours. Then, Judge James Johnson dismissed the jury for the afternoon and recessed court until 11-am Saturday morning. Judge Johnson told the court, "Legal issues have come up that are going to take an extended period of time to do research on." As Larry Owen left the courtroom early Friday afternoon, his attorney, Bill Bannister, refused to entertain any speculation that both parties might be working on a plea agreement. Bannister says, "that would be confidential and I couldn't tell you anyway." Witnesses scheduled to testify Friday afternoon have been told to return to the courtroom Saturday morning. Neither the SC Attorney General's office nor Owen's defense team will discuss what legal research needs to be done before the trial continues.

August 3, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

It turns out that what you long thought to be true is true: Mosquitoes prefer biting some people more than others. "Some people are just more attractive," said Ulrich Bernier, a research chemist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mosquitoes are so keen at figuring out who the best people are to have a blood meal," he said. "We still don't understand how they figure it out so well. They know how to do it and we don't know how they know." Mosquitoes are highly attracted to one in every 10 people. Bernier is working to discover which of the more than 1,000 chemicals on the skin of people attract and which repel mosquitoes. Figuring out what attracts mosquitoes has been an easier chore than determining what repels them. Mosquitoes are attracted to lactic acid in sweat and to carbon dioxide. They're so attracted to the latter that Martin Hyatt, Charleston County mosquito control superintendent, sometimes baits traps with dry ice which is simply solidified carbon dioxide. Mosquitoes are also attracted to sweet smells including perfume, hair oil and deodorant. They also are attracted to dark clothing, said Joe Conlon, American Mosquito Control Association technical adviser. Bernier has identified some of the body chemicals that repel mosquitoes but wouldn't say which ones. There are patents involved but the research is encouraging, he said. "I would never say we would be 100 percent safe," Bernier said. "I would say we're getting better all the time." Bernier's lab in Gainesville, Fla., was created after World War II to find repellents for the military. After investigating 80,000 chemicals, scientists developed DEET as an insect repellent. But it's not only the scent of a person that can cause a mosquito to bite. The pesky insects also have their own quirks. "We're just scratching our knowledge of it," Conlon said. But home remedies like eating brewer's yeast, garlic or vitamin B-12 don't seem to help much. "I don't care whether you eat them or smear them on the skin, it doesn't make any difference," said Bernier who added while diet seems to make a difference, little research has been done on the topic. Hyatt said one way to avoid being bitten is prevent mosquitoes from hatching. He said a lot of homeowners could help themselves simply by draining the standing water where mosquitoes breed.

August 5, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A church group is looking at how it operates a camp after an 11-year-old girl drowned. Leaders of the South Carolina District of Assemblies of God met with the director of the River Oaks Retreat Center on Wednesday to discuss the drowning of Tianna Sarde Dukes of Gaffney. Tianna was part of a group of nearly 200 adults and children participating in an inner-city outreach program with Radiant Life. She was found more than an hour after she slid down a 76-foot chute into the water. She was not wearing a life jacket, said David Nichols, the center's director. River Oaks' rules require campers to wear a life jacket while using the lake. "The leadership of the South Carolina Assemblies of God was deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the loss of Tianna Dukes," the group said in a statement. "Our sincere prayers and deep sympathy go out to Tianna's family. "The district is working in full cooperation with officials as they investigate the incident." River Oaks requires a lifeguard at its swimming pool, but church groups are responsible for providing water safety at the lake, according to rules posted on the camp's Web site.

August 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Statewide ambulance inspections are being done "as needed" - a drastic policy change from when state regulators checked the life-saving vehicles every three years. An official with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control said budget cuts at the agency have eliminated a program that required routine inspections for the 900 ambulances operated in South Carolina. Even though there are fewer inspections, some emergency services officials said it has not affected operations. "Every ambulance in our system is checked every day anyway," said Lewis Moore, manager of Spartanburg County Emergency Medical Services. The Spartanburg EMS uses the same DHEC standards that applied when the regulatory agency performed more inspections, Moore said. The state currently has one inspector and a supervisor who are responsible for ambulance inspections statewide. Alonzo Smith, the agency's director of emergency medical services, said inspections are done "as needed," mostly in response to complaints. "It's not ideal," Smith said. "But we're doing the best we can to serve the public."

Previously, ambulances had to receive permit renewals every three years. But now they operate indefinitely. When permits are reissued or filed for new ambulances, the certification is given without an expiration date. When the agency does inspections, it regulates medical supplies, drugs and equipment on ambulances, which are operated by emergency crews and rescue squads. Smith said the department "tries to do some random checks to keep EMS systems and rescue squads on their Ps and Qs." But in Spartanburg County, there have been no onsite inspections for "a year or two," Smith said. Fewer inspections may pose a risk, because many crews have had financial difficulties, said Phil Plexico, director of Spartanburg County's Emergency Services Academy. But Plexico said there's really no way to know. "The rescue squads are self-regulated, just like EMS," Plexico said. "To what extent, nobody knows, except the squad members."

August 10, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

How many times have you heard "If it's too good to be true it probably is?" Well check this out. You're offered a stock at 50 cents a share with a promise that it will be worth 6 dollars or more a share in just a few days. Do you buy the stock? Someone experienced in the stock market would be skeptical, but someone who isn't, may be tempted to make a quick profit and end up losing all of their money. Charles Sanford has never invested in the stock market. He says, "just ain't never been interested in it." Charles owns RJ's Grill in Spartanburg and works hard for his money, but was intrigued by a message left on his answering machine on Friday. The caller told him about a stock that was a sure thing. She told me, "it's gonna be 50 cents a share right now, but by Monday or Tuesday it will be \$6 or \$6.50." The stock the caller was referring to was UGW. We checked and it's not even traded. Emmet Martin at Wachovia Securities recognized the scenario right away as a pump and dump scam. He says, "stocks just don't go from fifty cents a share to six fifty a share with people knowing about it before hand." These scammers look for a stock that may be dormant, usually penny stocks. Martin says, "all they have to do at that point is buy in bulk and then create some demand." They create that demand by making calls to people who may not have any investment experience. "And they'll tell them that they will get rich overnight," says Martin. But what actually happens is these scammers cash in their shares of the stock before the investors do and leave them holding a stock worth nothing. Charles Sanford admitted he was tempted to invest, but was glad that he didn't. "I would've got taken for a ride." Anytime you invest in the stock market make sure you do your homework. Use a reputable investment firm and do research on the stock before you buy. If you receive a questionable stock offer report it immediately to the Federal Trade Commission.

August 10, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A federal Judge says a petition drive opposing a proposed \$41.6 million civil settlement in the Carolina Investors Inc. bankruptcy case is "meaningless." U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson said Monday that the petition drive by some investors who disagree with the proposed settlement is "meaningless." Anderson said he will consider objections to the proposal, but the objections must be filed in writing and follow federal law. Circulating petitions is "not the way you do it," Anderson said. Bankruptcy trustee Ralph McCullough said the individual amounts in the settlement will not be sent to Anderson for approval in order to abide by confidentiality rules of the mediation process. McCullough also said Monday that the number of individual depositors who lost an estimated \$278 million when the company failed now totals between 11,000 and 12,000. Earlier estimates were around 8,600 investors. The number grew as his staff prepares to send creditors, including investors, a request for approval of the settlement, McCullough said. Some families had multiple accounts for children or grandchildren that were listed under one name, McCullough said.

August 13, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

It will cost more than \$1 million to inform the 20,000 Carolina Investors' creditors about a possible settlement offer. The \$1.2 million will go for printing and mailing a 32-page document to the claimants, their representatives, state officials and lawyers and to buy advertisements in 25 newspapers in South Carolina and other states. The collapse of the Upstate investment company left about 8,000 investors out more than \$275 million. A civil settlement should get investors about 17 cents back for every dollar invested. In a hearing Thursday, lawyers said the investors could get the money back in a single lump-sum payment before Thanksgiving. Federal judge G. Ross Anderson said that any investors that object to the \$42 million settlement must file a written complaint with the court by Sept. 27. Those objections should say more than "I don't like it," Anderson said. The judge will hold a hearing on the objections on Sept. 28. Bankruptcy trustee Ralph C. McCullough helped arrange the settlement and could make nearly \$2 million depending on how much money gets back to the investors. McCullough said he can't put a precise figure on how much will be returned to investors and that there additional expenses will be paid before investors get their money and he gets his. But his payday will likely be more than what is collected by Carolina Investors' largest depositor, Don Bobo. Bobo lost \$2.1 million in its collapse and would get about \$350,000 back if he gets 17 cents on the dollar. Federal regulations affect how much McCullough gets paid. His compensation is based on a sliding scale that peaks with a 3 percent commission on all money of more than \$1 million returned to investors. As trustee, McCullough won't be paid any commissions until investors begin to get their money. "I haven't been paid personally any of my commission," he said. "Under the terms of the plan, when I distribute money to the investors, the creditors, I am allowed at that point to pay myself."

August 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Antonio Amaya has been a licensed neuropathologist in Seneca South Carolina since 2000, but complaints against him also date back at least that far. Amaya is no longer able to practice medicine in South Carolina, but there are even more questions ... now that the SC State Board of Medical Examiners has deemed Amaya a "serious threat" to public health and unfit to practice medicine. An August 11, 2004 relinquishment agreement took away 38-year-old Antonio Amaya's privileges to practice medicine in South Carolina. But it comes four years after stacks of complaints began coming in to the State Board of Medical Examiners about Amaya's personal and professional conduct, including numerous arrests in both Greenville and Oconee counties for public disorderly conduct, criminal domestic violence, assault and battery, and discharging firearms while under the influence. His most recent arrest was June 25, 2004, when several assault-style weapons, including an AK-47, were seized from his Lake Hartwell home by Oconee County deputies. But the most disturbing part of Amaya's background could be what many are calling potentially haphazard patient care. Oconee County Coroner Karl Addis first filed a complaint with the State Medical Board about Amaya in 2002. Addis says "...several deaths over the past few years were attributed to prescriptions written by Dr. Amaya... the overdoses were accidental ... several were directly related to oxycontin..." Amaya ran the New Hope Neurological Clinic in Seneca. Today the building stands void of any signs, except one stating that no narcotics are kept inside, and one which reads that the State Medical Board has moved all of Amaya's patient records to a secure location pending distribution to patients. But when FOX Carolina contacted the State Board, they said that they have no control over Amaya's patient records, and that the former doctor is refusing to distribute them to patients. Jim Knight with the Medical Board says their hands are tied because "the South Carolina Physician's Patient Record Act does not address what to do if doctor's abandon their office and records." Oconee County Senator Thomas Alexander says that needs to change. Alexander says "it's an area that needs to be addressed legislatively so that we make sure that the citizens, the patients in this case are protected, that they have their ability of having access to their records." At least one of Amaya's former patients committed suicide in recent weeks. Family and friends say Amaya had been prescribing him high doses of numerous opiates and narcotics, including oxycontin, morphine, and valium, and that when he couldn't get access to his patient records for refills, he shot himself. Alexander says that reality makes patient access to records an

issue critical to patient care, and public safety. "Circumstances that we're dealing with now certainly focus and highlight how valuable those records can be."

August 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Lady Liberty is ready to welcome the huddled masses of tourists again. The Statue of Liberty reopens today for the first time since it was closed after the Nine-Eleven attacks. Interior Secretary Gale Norton and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg will attend the ceremony. But it won't be business as before. Visitors will only be allowed as high as the statue's feet. From there they can gaze upward, through a glass partition, at the steel girders that brace the hollow interior of the New York harbor landmark. Officials say reopening the pedestal to the public is going ahead despite new warnings of possible terrorist attacks on financial centers in New York, New Jersey and Washington, D-C.

August 24, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Thousands of parents are worried about their child's identity this week after their child's social security numbers and other vital information were taken from a school computer- then posted on the internet for the world to see. The "breach of security" happened at T.L. Hanna High School in Anderson County District Five. The security breach is being blamed on two students, but Tuesday night the mother of one of those students is coming to her child's defense. FOX Carolina Spoke exclusively with the woman who did not want to be identified. The two students accused of breaching security are suspended from school and won't return until district administrators say otherwise. The irate mother tells us her son is being wrongly accused and for something the district is entirely responsible for. The mother says, "My son just let his friends borrow the computer. There is nothing wrong with that. It's just like letting him borrow a football or basketball". The mother also tells us she outraged the district could be so obvious in blaming her son for something they could have prevented. "I believe it was just childhood innocence by letting him come over. I believe its innocence on both parts," says the mother. Police and administrators agree a staff member left a file open in a computer lab at T.L Hanna. The file contained the names, social security numbers and birth dates of every student in the school. Last week one student found that file, put it on his website, a friend's computer and in a Connecticut chat room. It's a mistake the mother calls child's play. The student's mother says, "I'm ashamed at what happened. I'm sad he's not in class learning the lessons he should be learning and I feel like he's just wasting time sitting here". But the district says the punishment fits the crime and that administrators need to set a clear example that this type of breach of security will not be tolerated. Jeff Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Anderson District 5, says, "In our opinion if the student had found the information and reported it then this would all be over with". Administrators also tell us they found a long list of hackers and password crackers on one of the student's websites. It's important to note, neither student has been charged with breaking the law. The staff member who left the file on the computer is on Administrative leave with pay. No matter who's at fault the damage may already be done, but there are steps parents can take to minimize the risk. Tuesday night, the district held one of three meetings telling parents how to protect their child's identity. About 100 showed up. They were told if your child has a checking or savings account or educational I.R.A. contact the institution. Also, contact Equifax credit bureau at 1-800-525-6285. When you call they'll tell you to mail a certified copy of your child's social security card, birth certificate, drivers' license, and proof of residency.

August 30, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Financial exploitation is taking a toll on South Carolina's elderly. In one case, people who were close to Hilton Head Island couple are charged with bilking them of \$20 million. Eleanor and Bernard Breedlove, a retired Hilton Head couple in their 90s, are the state's highest-dollar victims, according to those who keep up with financial exploitation of the elderly. Known for their philanthropy, the Breedlove's have become known as big victims of a crime that observers say is vastly unreported. Families and relatives tend to keep it quiet and many prosecutors either do not know how to win convictions or prefer to spend their time on other, more winnable cases. "It's probably on par with child abuse," said Randy Thomas, a Columbia consultant in the field. "The public doesn't recognize it. It's not recognized in the criminal justice system. There's no advocacy group." Police and prosecutors contend that in five years, Lisa Cramer, a 34-year-old former Beaufort County Deputy, Bluffton police training officer and victim's advocate, used her relationship as a caregiver for the couple to divert money for herself and her husband, Nathan Cramer, 32. Cramer's lawyer, Lionel Lofton, said she did not exploit the couple. He says she was like a daughter to the couple for 12 years and that Eleanor Breedlove even considered adopting her. "She did everything for them, ... performed all the services you would expect a loving child to do," Lofton said. Prosecutor Angela McCall-Tanner says Eleanor Breedlove meant to reward Cramer for her kindness, but not to the tune of two homes and five lots in exclusive neighborhoods. "While she's handing Lisa \$1,000 to her face, Lisa is reaching into her back pocket and taking millions," McCall-Tanner said. The Breedlove case may involve a lot of money, but other cases highlight the problem, too. In Kershaw County, Lucille M. Reed, a widow, lost her home and land, and she died with little left in her name after relatives were charged with siphoning her wealth. She was 80 when investigators say relatives took advantage of her age and near blindness to have her sign over her Camden home, another house and about 40 acres of land. Kershaw County detectives and a SLED agent said Reed thought she was willing property to relatives, but in fact was signing deeds that turned over ownership while she was alive. In 1999, a county grand jury indicted Camden police officer Greg Pendleton, a great nephew of Reed's; his mother, Ann Pendleton, who was Reed's niece; Kathy Roscoe, Ann Pendleton's daughter; and Roscoe's husband, Roger Roscoe, a Camden firefighter. Kathy Roscoe repaid \$20,000 to clear her charge. Assistant attorney general James G. Bogle handled the cases against Greg and Ann Pendleton, but said they were weak because Reed, then 83, was incapable of testifying by 2002 when he got involved. And a psychiatrist, two real estate lawyers and a social worker said they felt Reed knew what she was doing when she signed over the property. What appeared to be exploitation "led folks to believe things that just were not true," Greg Pendleton, 33, said. The accusations were devastating to the family and especially to Pendleton as a 13-year veteran of the police department. "It was just an ugly situation to be in." Capt. David Thomley, chief of detectives at the Kershaw County Sheriff's Department, sees it differently. "Mrs. Reed was exploited no question in my mind," he said. "This was a slam-dunk in my opinion. "I would rather go to court and lose a case and know I've fought for that victim than to not go to court at all and the victim still loses."

September 6, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Greenville Museum of Art will be closed Tuesday, September 7th due to air conditioning problems. The museum hopes to be open by Wednesday, September 8th. For museum information, call 271-7570.

September 6, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Policyholders with questions regarding their coverage for damage caused by Hurricane Frances should contact their insurance agent or company representative. To assist consumers, special toll-free numbers have been set up by insurance companies. This and other hurricane-related information can be found at the Insurance Information Institute's website: www.insurance.info. The following insurance companies have set up toll-free hotlines: Acuity - 800-242-7666; Allstate - 800-54-STORM (800-547-8676); American Skyline Insurance Co. - 888-298-5224; American International Group - 800-433-8880 (auto & home); Atlantic Mutual - 800-945-7461; AXA Re Property and Casualty - 800 216-3711; Bituminous - 800-822-2905 (Florida); Church Mutual - 800-554-2642; Citizens Property Insurance Corp. - 866-411-2742; CHUBB - 800-CLAIMS-0 (800-252-4670); Clarendon Insurance Company - 800 216-3711; CNA - 877-733-4250; CUNA Mutual - 800-637-2676; Erie Insurance Group - 800-367-3743; Farmers - 800-435-7764; Fireman's Fund - 888-FIREHAT (888-347-3428); GE Employers Re - 866-413-8978; GEICO - 800-841-3005; Harbor National Insurance Company - 800 216-3711; The Hartford - 800-243-5860; Holyoke Mutual - 800-225-2533; Industrial Risk Insurers - 860-520-7347 (commercial claims); Liberty Mutual - 800-2CLAIMS (800-225-2467); Louisiana Farm Bureau - 866-275-7322; Mercury Insurance Group - 800-987-6000; Metropolitan Auto & Home - 800-854-6011; National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) - 1-800-427-4661; Nationwide - 800-421-3535; Omega Insurance Company - 800 216-3711; OneBeacon - 877-248-4968; Royal & Sun Alliance - 800-847-6925; SAFECO - 800-332-3226; Selective - 866-455-9969; Shelter Insurance Group - 800-SHELTER; St. Paul Travelers - 800-CLAIM33 (800-252-4633); State Farm Insurance - 800-SF-CLAIM (800-732-5246); Texas Farm Bureau - 800-772-6535; Tower Hill Insurance Companies - 800 216-3711; USAA - 800-531-8222; Zurich - 800-987-3373

September 15, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Western North Carolina is still trying to recover from the remnants of Hurricane Frances, Wednesday, the first FEMA center was opened in Clyde, NC, ready to help those in need. It was a week ago the flood waters rose and people's lives and businesses floated away. Now many people are waiting for Ivan to hit, but FEMA is already there, ready to help. Cyndi Walker's home in Clyde was destroyed by flooding from Frances, now she says, "I'm trying to save pictures and notes that my dad wrote to me, he's dead, that's what it's like around here, we're trying to save things now." Down the street, another flood victim, Sherian Conner recalls what it was like seeing her home after the flood waters receded, "We were in shock for a while and sometimes we just break down and start crying." Mud and dirt cover the streets of Clyde the sidewalks hold the lives of hundreds of families. "Couches, tv, it's all gone, all gone. Christmas ornaments that I've had since birth, gone. Basically now, it's just what can you save, that's all it is. We were all surprised my flowers made it, for us, it was a ray of hope," says Cyndi. Now, FEMA hopes their disaster recovery center will be the ray of sunshine these victims were waiting for. Jack Heesch with FEMA says, "Inside [the center] we have the state of North Carolina, unemployment offices are here, we have tax offices here, there's an aging service in here, there's stress management folks, there's a lot of relief here." "They came out here and he's been to the house and we're going to be able to get some help through them," says Sherian. FEMA says if you've been affected in any way by the flooding, you could be eligible for help, especially now as Ivan inches closer. "You got hold starting in the house now, I don't know what I'm going to do...basically just hunker down," says Cyndi. If you are looking for assistance from FEMA, you first need to call 1-800-621-FEMA to register. FEMA also says before Ivan gets here, take pictures of your home and belongings, document what you have because it's a lot easier to get back what you know you lost.

September 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Voters in two small North Carolina towns approved the sale of alcohol Tuesday, each by about 2-to-1 margins. Lillington voters agreed to allow the sale of beer, wine and mixed drinks, while voters in Spindale approved the same new regulations and decided to allow an Alcoholic Beverage Control store in town. Supporters in both towns say they hope the sale of alcohol will help spur economic growth. "I think it's about time that we have it," said Luke Weber, who voted Tuesday in Lillington.

September 27, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina's medical licensing board will consider requiring criminal background checks for doctors. Jim Knight, a spokesman for the state Labor, Licensing and Regulation Department, said a draft of the proposal calls for a change in state law to allow national screening of medical license applicants. South Carolina requires such screening for day-care workers and teachers. The department's medical board will consider the proposal in November. The issue came up last week when investigators discovered a West Columbia physician had failed to report a 1966 felony conviction in Michigan when he applied for a South Carolina medical license. Dr. James M. Shortt was 19 years old when he was convicted of felony switchblade possession. At the time, Shortt was known as James Michael Wideman. Shortt now is under investigation by medical regulators and police after one of his patient's died following an alternative medical treatment. Katherine Bibeau, 53, died in March a few days after the first of three planned injections Shortt administered at the Health Dimensions Clinic in West Columbia. Richland County Coroner Gary Watts has ruled her death a homicide. No one has been charged in the case. Some patient advocates support criminal checks for physicians. "We know that the majority of physicians are qualified, honorable people," said Dave Almeida, executive director of the state chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. "But when anyone is dealing with very vulnerable people, we think prudence is the best course of action. "We don't have an official position on (background checks), but frankly, it sounds like a no-brainer." South Carolina is among several states not requiring any sort of background checks. At least 10 states, including North Carolina require national criminal checks for medical license applicants. Four other states including New Jersey require checks of in-state records. The Federation of State Medical Boards, based in Dallas, has not taken a public stand on whether background checks should be mandated, spokeswoman Katherine Poteet said.

September 30, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The remnants of Hurricane Jeanne caused at least \$1.1 million worth of damage to insured property this week in South Carolina, according to an industry news service. About 500 claims had been filed by Thursday afternoon, according to the South Carolina Insurance News Service. The claims ranged from \$700 to more than \$8,500 for a total of \$1.1 million, the service reported. More claims are expected in the next several days, according to the news service.

September 30, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

BFGoodrich Tires is recalling 46,000 passenger and light truck tires after its quality system alerted the company to a condition initially affecting ride quality, but which could possibly result in steel belt separation if not addressed. To date, there have been no accidents or injuries reported and no property damage claims filed. However, the company's thorough investigation indicates there may be similar performance issues with up to 3,500 tires, representing six tire brands. In order to reclaim that small number of tires, the company is recalling all potentially

affected tires produced during the same period in a comprehensive commitment to retrieve from the market any tire that doesn't perform to BFGoodrich Tires quality standards. "This decision was made based on six tires returned from service prematurely after consumers experienced tire vibration, noise and ride comfort issues," explained Michel Default, quality director for BFGoodrich Tire Manufacturing. "Based on our analysis of these returned tires, we've discovered an issue with one of the semi-finished products sent to our Ft. Wayne, Ind. facility and used in the production of up to 3,500 tires at the end of the 15th week and beginning of the 16th week (April) this year. That issue has been addressed and corrected. Fortunately, the issue was identified very early and we are acting in a comprehensive manner to assure consumer satisfaction and safety." BFGoodrich Tires informed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on Sept. 27, 2004 of its U.S. recall campaign and is beginning an intensive communication with dealers, wholesalers and consumers potentially impacted. All recalled tires will be replaced free of charge and returned to BFGoodrich Tires. The recalled tires have Department of Transportation tire identification numbers which begin with DOT BF and end with the last four digits 1504 or 1604. The DOT codes are found on the inner or outer sidewall of the tire just above the wheel rim and are printed in small type (less than half an inch tall). There are no issues with tires manufactured outside of these DOT weeks. All of the recalled tires were produced in week 15 and 16 this year (April 11-24, 2004) at the Ft. Wayne facility and include BFGoodrich, Uniroyal, Liberator, Medalist, Phantom and Prospector brands in the following dimensions: LT235/75R15 BFGoodrich All-Terrain T/A KO Load Range C RWL; 33X12.50R15 BFGoodrich All-Terrain T/A KO Load Range C RWL;LT235/70R16 BFGoodrich All-Terrain T/A KO Load Range C RWL; P245/75R16 BFGoodrich Land Terrain; P255/70R16 Liberator A/T;P255/70R16 109S Medalist Trail A/P ORWL;P255/70R16 Medalist Sport King A/T Steel Radial;P255/70R16 109S Phantom AP RWL;P255/70R16 American Prospector AP RWL;P245/75R16 Uniroyal Laredo AWP;P265/75R16 114S Uniroyal Laredo AWP ORWL;P255/70R16 Uniroyal Laredo AWP;P265/75R15SL112S Uniroyal Laredo A/S AWP;BFGoodrich Tires has begun contacting dealers and wholesalers in the United States to recall as many tires as possible from dealer inventories and to gather information on consumers who have purchased the tires involved. Affected consumers will be contacted by first class mail. Appropriate related actions will be conducted in other countries that received the recalled tires. Any consumer who believes they are affected by the recall should not wait to receive notification but should call BFGoodrich Tires at 1-877-788-8899 or Uniroyal Tire at 1-877-458-5878 or return to their point of purchase for a free inspection and replacement of affected tires. Additional information, including details on how to determine which tires are affected, can be found online at <http://www.bfgoodrichtires.com/recall> and <http://www.uniroyal.com/recall> .

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
-------------	-------------	----------------

Saturdays (airs weekly)	8pm	COPS
----------------------------	-----	------

Monday – Friday at 12 midnight (60:00)
Monday – Friday at 3:30am (30:00)

DESCRIPTION: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
----------------------------	-----	-----------------------

DESCRIPTION: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
-----------------	----------	------------------------

DESCRIPTION: The Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

July 19 th , 2004	11:29am to 9:29pm (live cut-in)
------------------------------	---------------------------------

DESCRIPTION:

Live cut-in to cover hostage situation in Spartanburg, SC. This cover lasted until the end of the situation.

July 19, 2004	10:00PM	The Ten O'clock News
---------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION:

A stand-off that began at 8 a.m. ended almost 13 hours later with the hostage escaping and the suspect being taken by ambulance to a hospital. A piece of construction equipment smashed a hole through the side of the building around 8:30 p.m. At the time, the suspect and hostage were thought to be inside a cooler in the store. The suspect, Jimmy Johnson of Spartanburg, was shot in the chest as he tried to keep hostage Sarah Patel from escaping. Johnson was transported to Spartanburg Regional Hospital, and is expected to fully recover from the gunshot wound. FOX Carolina photojournalists captured on videotape Patel escaping through a hole in the side of the store, and Johnson being carried to a waiting ambulance. It all started during a routine traffic stop because of an expired tag on Johnson's car. Police say that's when Johnson got out of the car and ran in to the convenience store with a gun in hand.

July 20, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A loader machine becomes a tool in helping free a woman taken hostage Monday morning at the Fast Point convenience store in Spartanburg. Part of the rescue required creating another entrance into the building, that's where a Spartanburg Public Works employee brought in a front end loader. It was unlike any job he's ever done, but it was a job Randy Vinson knew would be done the best and was willing to risk his own life to save the hostage, Sarah Patel. With a bulletproof vest strapped to him and his front end loader, Randy Vinson took down the back corner of the Fast Point Convenience store. "When I got inside the building through the block wall, ran into another wall, partition wall, still wasn't able to get the guys in, the SWAT team, so went on inside and knocked it down to get them room to get inside." Once inside, SWAT team members threw flash bang grenades as Jimmy Johnson and his hostage, Sarah Patel ran into the cooler. "Then he gave me the ok to knock that side down because they had locked themselves in the cooler....When I took out the corner of the building and backed off from it and got out of the fire line, one shot was done and that was it. I heard them say handcuff him and they had him." While he won't call himself a hero, "I don't think it's so much as a hero, I think I would've done it for anybody." Randy says he's proud to be a part of the dramatic rescue. "I felt great, it really felt good, I was proud of everyone, everybody, the way they did it, the way they protected themselves, protected me and themselves, they did a super job." In his 25-30 years of operating that type of machinery, Randy says he's never been in a situation like this, but says if he had to do it again, he would.

July 20, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

To her family, she is a loving woman. To the community, she's become an inspiration. Just three days before she was taken hostage, Saroj Patel gave the man who held her in a store for over 12 hours \$3.00 for gas. However, she never knew she would find herself in a life or death situation with the same man she was so generous to. "I know he's a good guy, but you know once your mind is gone you can kill anyone, so I'm scared," said Patel. For hours, Saroj Patel sat in her Fast Point Convenience store with a gun pointed in her face and at her back. She says an erratic man, Jimmy Johnson, was holding her hostage. He was desperate and vowed that he wasn't going back to jail. "Police sent him in the jail his whole life like that he's scared, he wants to shoot himself," said Patel. He kept her crouched down behind the register for hours. "He just kept drinking beer, talking on the phone to his lady, talking to his momma and everybody. Sometimes when he was mad he would say two people are going to die here," said Patel. She feared those words and she thought about her family, so she kneeled and prayed and so did her husband who always held onto his faith. "We never think like that, I know she'll be with me no matter what," said NarenDra Patel. He talked to his wife, while she was inside the store. "About 2:30PM she called and said I'm going to die. I said listen, if God wants to save you, nobody can kill you," said NarenDra Patel. However the hours seemed like eternity for Saroj. "He told his girlfriend, I'll give you 30 minutes, he said at 3:00PM I'm gonna die, at 3:20 I'm gonna die, you know I'm a little scared," said Patel. She says Johnson continued to drink beer and threatened to kill himself over and over again. At times he appeared erratic again and he started shooting out of the store window, it was his way Patel says to get investigators' attention for a phone. Then he forced her in the line of fire. "I'm just looking here and there, if someone pulled me..I thought about that, but he's standing near me and if I stand up, he'll shoot me. I know that." He offered her food, but she said no and fed off her spirituality and more prayers. Then she heard a loud noise, one she hoped sounded like freedom then Jimmy Johnson pushed her inside the cooler. "I don't want to die, he has a gun and he said come on Miss Saroj and he pushed me first." It was all a blur to her, but Patel and Johnson began struggling with the gun. "He pushed me first and at the same time Police shot him in his shoulder. I could smell gas and I fell down, he fell down on top of me. I thought I was dying, but I heard the noise and I just ran. I looked and I see that I'm not hit, I'm safe," said Patel. Now, she's happy to be at home with her family. "When I came outside, I see my husband and now I can see my kids too. I also pray to God that he's O.K.

July 20, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

There is new information about the man who barricaded himself inside the convenience store with hostage Saroj Patel. Her captor, Jimmy Johnson, got an early start to his criminal career. At 18 he was arrested and convicted for possession of marijuana and shoplifting. FOX Carolina found a laundry list of arrests on SLED's database. The 38 year old was picked up off the streets 32 times by police. Johnson's family tells us yesterday he just panicked, didn't want to go to jail and never

wanted to hurt Saroj Patel. But Johnson's rap sheet tells a different story-- one of a 38 year old who made a living breaking the law. Johnson first got started in 1983-- arrested five times. In 1984-- more arrests-- including unlawful possession of a weapon and discharging a firearm. In 1985 through 1988-- nearly a dozen arrests-- shoplifting, resisting arrests, pointing a firearm, unlawful weapons, escape, and assault. But the next year would be Johnson's busiest and most severe. In 1989 Johnson was arrested nine more times for kidnapping, armed robbery, purse snatching, shoplifting, possession of a firearm and resisting arrest. It was that year that kept Johnson behind bars and off the streets for eight years. Once released Johnson didn't waste much time getting back to business. In 1997 he was arrested again- this time for assault of a high aggravated nature. After Monday's dramatic events Johnson can add 15 charges to his rap sheet. Including assault and battery with intent to kill, firing a weapon and kidnapping.

July 21, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Monday's 12 hour hostage standoff was seen around the country and captured the attention of many throughout the Carolina's. It ended with a split second decision that save the hostage's life and changed many others. Crystal Tuell, the Sniper's relative says, "I was just up in knots for that poor lady the whole time..." Tuell and many others watched, waited and prayed for a safe rescue. "The fear she had and everybody around them not knowing what he was going to do, it was horrible," says Tuell. But everyone knew something was about to happen as a second hole was plowed into the front of the building. "I thought he was either going to shoot her and they would end up shooting him or it was going to escalate to where he was going to make demands holding a gun to her head and I was hoping I was in the position to get the video," says FOX Carolina's Photojournalist, Charles Powell. He was in the right position and captured the sniper's shot on tape. It was a scene that prompted Tuell to express her gratitude in a poem called "Choices." "You are my hero through and through and with the life that God gave you, you do a job so few would do, for that, we love you" Tuell says, "That was my way of telling him, hey, thank you for being there." Now as television stations across the nation replay that single shot, the reality of it all hits home to the man who saw it through is camera lens. "I was shocked, I was happy they had taken him out and she hadn't gotten hurt, that no officers had been injured and I was also happy that it was over with," says Powell. Powell's video of the sniper's shot is a valuable tool for police as well, it will be used for training and evaluating the techniques used during the standoff.

July 21, 2004

10:00pmThe Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A couple accused of impersonating police and stealing hundreds of dollars from the elderly is behind bars. Greenville is just one of the cities the impersonators hit. Police say Dwayne White and Sonya Gooden traveled much of the upstate, even North Carolina to rip off their victims. Now one of those victims is relieved to know the couple is spending the night behind bars. 78 year old Josie Mae Brown says, "They took my house over. They just took it over. I don't care what happens to them". Brown remembers the day well. In January she says White and Gooden pretended to be detectives investigating a bank robbery and had reason to believe she had some of the money. After storming into her house on Calvary Street Brown says the couple rushed back out with \$100 cash and a social security check for \$623. "Yeah its money I need. Lord, you know. I needed money. I retired at 62 years old," says Brown. Greenville police say brown wasn't the only victim. They say for months the couple flashed fake badges and were even pulled over by police on two separate occasions. One time they showed a fake i.d. of a dead man. Just last week the two were caught red-handed in Sumter where their scam came to an end. Lt. Mike Gambrell of the Greenville City Police Department says, "This is a rash of 5-6 month period. Our investigators definitely went to work diligently and did a tremendous work identifying the subjects and bringing them to justice." Police say the couple admitted to ripping off from innocent people. They're charged with impersonation of a cop and burglary in the second degree. "People like that, they ain't worth living. That's how I think about people who take old peoples money", says Brown. A couple accused of impersonating police and stealing hundreds of dollars from the elderly is behind bars. Greenville is just one of the cities the impersonators hit. Police say Dwayne White and Sonya Gooden traveled much of the upstate, even North Carolina to rip off their victims. Now one of those victims is relieved to know the couple is spending the night behind bars. 78 year old Josie Mae Brown says, "They took my house over. They just took it over. I don't care what happens to them." Brown remembers the day well. In January she says White and Gooden pretended to be detectives investigating a bank robbery and had reason to believe she had some of the money. After storming into her house on Calvary Street Brown says the couple rushed back out with \$100 cash and a social security check for \$623. "Yeah its money I need. Lord, you know. I needed money. I retired at 62 years old," says Brown. Greenville police say brown wasn't the only victim. They say for months the couple flashed fake badges and were even pulled over by police on two separate occasions. One time they showed a fake i.d. of a dead man. Just last week the two were caught red-handed in Sumter where their scam came to an end. Lt. Mike Gambrell of the Greenville City Police Department says, "This is a rash of 5-6 month period. Our investigators definitely went to work diligently and did a tremendous work identifying the subjects and bringing them to justice." Police say the couple admitted to ripping off from innocent people. They're charged with impersonation of a cop and burglary in the second degree. "People like that, they ain't worth living. That's how I think about people who take old peoples money", says Brown.

July 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A carnival worker has been sentenced to 30 years in prison after pleading guilty to killing two other workers. Prosecutors said they offered William Michael Bell, 21, the plea bargain to murder charges Thursday because they said if the case went to trial, a jury could have found him guilty of a lesser charge. In April, an angry Bell went to 22-year-old Anthony Potochney's trailer at a traveling carnival because Potochney had rocked a portable bathroom and a trailer while Bell was inside, prosecutors said. Moments later, Potochney and 21-year-old Kristen McIntyre were found shot to death. Bell was arrested a short time later and had the gun used to fire the fatal shots, prosecutors said. Some family members of the victims called the 30-year sentence a "slap on the wrist." "I don't think it's fair to give murderers a chance to plea to a lesser sentence. I can't see how you can give him anything less than life in prison," said Kristi Davis, reading a statement from her fiancé, who is Potochney's brother. Bell didn't plan to kill the victims, but feared Potochney had a weapon, his lawyer, John Abdalla said.

July 23, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Testimony was cut short Friday afternoon in the securities fraud trial against Larry Owen. Owen is the former president and CEO of Carolina Investors. The firm shut its doors March 15, 2003, leaving 8,000 investors -- mostly from the Upstate -- wondering what happened to their collective \$278 million in investments. Fox Carolina's Tami Birckner has been following the trial. She says today's early recess came after testimony breaks down the defense's theory that Owen told investors only what he knew and never lied to anyone. "I asked him point blank ... I said Mr. Owen ... I have heard that Carolina Investors is in some way affiliated with Home Gold, is that true? He told me that were at one time but at this time we are not affiliated with Home Gold in any way ... period," testified Alvin Johnson. Johnson says that promise from Larry Owen is why he entrusted his \$190,000 to Carolina Investors. Alan Landreth says he fell victim to similar promises during a 2002 phone call with Owen. "You don't have any reason to pull your money out Mr. Landreth," is what Landreth testified Owen told him, and that his money was guaranteed. Landreth went on to say that he asked Owen, "how is that the case ... and he told me that it was guaranteed by more than adequate assets in Carolina Investors." CPA Gary Rank has been an Elliot Davis auditor working with Carolina Investors for several years. Rank testified that Owen was told auditors became skeptical of the future of Carolina Investors back in 1998, and says he told Owen just that during a meeting with auditors and Carolina Investors executives and board members. Rank then testified that a letter Owen sent to investors Barbara and Gene Gregory on May 8, 2002 contains information Owen knew wasn't true. Rank told jurors that Owen wrote Carolina Investors was "in the best financial condition that they have been in the past 4 years." Rank says, "that is not a true statement ... In fact they were in what I consider to be the worst financial condition they had been in in the last 4 years." Court was expected to resume at 2pm Friday afternoon, but after a short recess for lunch, attorneys met behind closed doors for more than 2-hours. Then, Judge James Johnson dismissed the jury for the afternoon and recessed court until 11-am Saturday morning. Judge Johnson told the court, "Legal issues have come up that are going to take an extended period of time to do research on." As Larry Owen left the courtroom early Friday afternoon, his attorney, Bill Bannister, refused to entertain any speculation that both parties might be working on a plea agreement. Bannister says, "that would be confidential and I couldn't tell you anyway." Witnesses scheduled to testify Friday afternoon have been told to return to the courtroom Saturday morning. Neither the SC Attorney General's office or Owen's defense team will discuss what legal research needs to be done before the trial continues.

August 2, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man with a gun held police at bay for four hours near Clinton in Laurens County-- until a robot rolled in. The standoff started just before two Monday afternoon. 30 Laurens County deputies and SLED officers surrounded a home on Derby Lane and Preakness Path. A 58 year old man was distraught with personal problems. Neighbors staked out the area to see what would happen next. Alan Noah says, "Curiosity. I just moved here from Ohio and I thought this was a good neighborhood and saw all the cop cars because this is where I usually walk my pup down." As neighbors like Noah watched, negotiators tried to talk the man inside out of the house. At 2:30 negotiations broke down and the man inside fired two shots with a 50 caliber revolver. He then tells police he's going to walk outside the house to see someone and he'll shoot if they try to stop him. Laurens County Sheriff, Rick Chastain says, "It was a very tense situation, it takes patience to wait it out." A little later, the man's wife left messages on their answering machine inside while SLED sent in a robot to make the next move. It found the 58 year old unconscious on the couch. Chastain says, "The robot continued to approach and was able to actually lift the pistol beside him and back up to take it out from area and still manage to see individual and make sure there was no movement when SLED went in." The tense armed standoff ended shortly after that with no one getting injured. The man inside was sent to the hospital for psychological exams. He could be charged with criminal domestic violence.

August 4, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

During an early 2004 court hearing, Greenville Chief of Police Willie Johnson testified on behalf of a confessed drug dealer. The defendant had already entered into a plea agreement that included a 3-year prison sentence, but the Chief put in a good word for him, and now he's serving his time under house arrest instead of behind bars. An arrest warrant shows that a Mauldin man was arrested by Greenville Police in 2001 after selling more than 10-grams of cocaine to an undercover officer. It was not his first run-in with law enforcement. In fact, his rap sheet dates back to the late 19-90's ... and includes marijuana trafficking and possession charges, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer, and unlawful or obscene use of a telephone. During a recent court hearing on the drug trafficking charges ...sources have confirmed that Chief Johnson put his arm around the defendant and testified that the two have attended the same church for almost 20-years. The Chief also told the court he believed the defendant had changed his ways and deserved leniency in sentencing. Chief Johnson would not talk with us on camera, but said in a telephone interview, "it's not unusual for me to make recommendations during court proceedings." However, Johnson refused to speak on the record about any specifics regarding this case. Several members of the Greenville Police Department contacted FOX Carolina to say they believe the Chief's behavior was unethical, but that is something Johnson himself denies. But they also refused to talk on camera for fear of retaliation by the department. Rich Roberts with the International Union of Police Associations did talk to us on behalf of several Greenville officers. Roberts says, "morale has suffered significantly and to a high degree because they're concerned about the public perception of the department's ability to carry out its obligation in terms of public safety ... The officers feel they don't have the kind of support necessary to effect arrests and have the individual incarcerated for reasonable periods to protect the public, then it's pretty discouraging to the officers." Solicitor Bob Ariail said in a phone interview, "it doesn't bother me if anyone testifies on behalf of a defendant, but I understand how officers within the Greenville Police would be upset by the Chief's testimony." FOX Carolina also contacted the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association, but no one with that organization would comment on the Chief's actions. Greenville mayor Knox White also declined to comment. The man Chief Johnson stood up for as a character witness was facing up to 25-years in prison for a third offense drug trafficking charge. The Solicitor's office reduced his charge to a first offense through a plea agreement, but instead of the mandatory 3 to 10-year jail sentence he got 3-years house arrest. So FOX Carolina pulled the records of several other cases to see what kind of sentences other defendants have gotten after pleading guilty to similar charges -- when the Police Chief didn't testify on their behalf. This is what we found: In 2003, a man charged with possession with intent to distribute was sentenced to 5-years behind bars. In June, 2004, a 1st offense drug trafficking charge of more than 10-grams of cocaine landed a Greenville man 15-years in prison. In July, 2004, a charge of trafficking more than 10-grams of cocaine -- 2nd offense -- resulted in a 25-year prison sentence. Courthouse sources say cases are sentenced on an individual, case-by-case basis and that sentences can't necessarily be compared. But some members of the police force say this shows a clear distinction between sentences when criminals have members of the law enforcement community vouch for them, instead of letting the justice system run its course. Roberts says "what it has to do with is responsible leadership on the part of a police executive and I think the chief should be called on to give the fullest possible explanation of his actions ... [Chief Johnson] certainly has to be held accountable for the actions that he has taken in this case." FOX Carolina also contacted Judge Ned Miller. He handed down the home incarceration sentence in this case. Miller is out of town and unavailable for comment, but the Solicitor's office says it is not unusual for Judge Miller to choose home incarceration because of overcrowding at the Greenville county detention center, and because it saves taxpayer dollars. Do you have a news tip or story idea? Contact Tami Birckner at 864-213-2217 or tami.birckner@foxcarolina.com.

August 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating a death at the Anderson County Detention Center. William Teasley, 31, was arrested Monday for disorderly conduct. Officials said Teasley became violent when deputies booked him and officers used a Taser gun to subdue him. Teasley stopped breathing after he was shocked. He

was transported to Anderson Area Medical Center, where he died a short time later. Preliminary autopsy results showed Teasley died from cardiac arrest, deputy coroner Charlie Boseman said. Teasley had an enlarged heart and was recently in an accident that left him with some brain damage, Boseman said. Final autopsy results were expected Wednesday.

August 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A 15-year-old girl is very lucky after getting into a car with a stranger. She's safe with her family tonight and that stranger is facing criminal charges. Investigators say one of those charges should be stupidity. "From a law enforcement perspective this situation could have turned out really bad," said Lt. Mike Gambrell from the Greenville Police Department. While the 15 year-old girl was waiting for her father at this busy strip mall near east north street and pelham road, she was approached by a man in a car." According to the police, the unsuspecting teenager actually got into the guys car, once inside, the conversation quickly turned to sex. The man took one hundred dollars from his wallet and propositioned the girl to have sex with him at a local hotel. The young girl was able to talk her way out of a dangerous situation. She got out of the car, but before she was able to leave, the man handed her his cell phone number. When her father returned, the girl explained to him exactly what had just happened. He called the police right away. The officer called the phone number the man gave the girl. In just a few minutes he arrived back at the strip mall. Instead of a date, this guy got busted. Aymen Zikry Awadalla is now facing charges of Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor, Soliciting Prostitution, and Prostitution of a Minor. He is out on bond tonight awaiting a hearing.

August 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Simpsonville man is busted for taking pornographic photos of children. Police know who some of those children are, but not all of them and that is very scary for parents whose children had contact with 37 year old Thomas Davis of Simpsonville. Investigators found the pictures in Davis ' home at 18 Lady Bird Court . The pictures are of teenagers investigators say the Simpsonville man had sex with. Investigators say Davis was sick enough to invite troubled and unsuspecting teens into his home and have sex with them. The search of his home in the quiet neighborhood turned up disturbing photos of several juveniles, some girls—maybe boys, having sex with Davis and stimulating themselves in front of him. Master Deputy Michael Hilderbrand says, "He allowed teens to stay in his house if they had problems with they're parents. He allowed them to come over and stay as long as they felt necessary." Until 2002, Davis worked at Kemet as an internet specialist. An investigation into his sexual behavior started last summer after a 15 year old accused him of having sex with her. He was arrested earlier this year for sexual misconduct, posted bail, and released. Investigators say there are other victims on the computer photos they can't identify and need them to come forward. "We don't want victims just sitting back. If they come forward, we'll protect them, press more charges if that's necessary and get them the help they need," says Hilderbrand. Davis ' neighbors tell us he should have been arrested sooner. For months they've noticed a steady flow of teenagers coming and going at all times of the day. One family just moved in last Saturday and is sickened by the news. Regina Kruszka says, "I'm just pretty shocked. You move into nice and pretty neighborhood and then you hear there's a sex maniac on the block, so it's scary." If your child has been hanging around Davis or you think he may have abused your child- investigators want to hear from you-- call them at 864-467-5370. Bond is set at 100-thousand dollars. He faces 10 counts of sexual exploitation of a minor.

DESCRIPTION:

Authorities say a man who died at the Anderson County Detention Center on Monday already had poor health, but the high-voltage jolt from a Taser used to subdue him "was the last straw." William Teasley, 31, was arrested Monday for disorderly conduct and police say he became violent and struggled when deputies booked him. He stopped breathing after officers used a Taser gun, which sends 50,000 volts through a body, to subdue him. Dr. Brett Woodard, a pathologist, says Teasley had multiple health problems. His heart and spleen were enlarged; his liver weighed twice as much as a normal one, he had hardening of the arteries and a constricted airway, Woodard says. The Taser's shock alone did not cause Teasley's death. "In the dominoes of this man's existence, this Taser was the last straw," Woodard said. Anderson County Deputy Coroner Charlie Boseman also said the Taser contributed to Teasley's death when combined with a medical history that includes heart disease. Woodard's findings will be made part of the State Law Enforcement Division investigation into Teasley's death, which could be ready next week. After that, the coroner's office will rule on Teasley's manner of death. Anderson County Detention Center Director Robert Daly said his staff followed all the correct procedures. He will conduct an internal investigation after SLED closes its case. Daly said Teasley didn't tell jail staff about his medical condition. "Would they have used that if they knew he had all of these medical problems? I'm sure they wouldn't have," Daly said. Many of Teasley's medical problems stemmed from an April 17, 2003, wreck that caused severe brain damage and left him with the mind of a small child. Daly said jailers asked Teasley if he had any medical problems and Teasley said he had back pain. When they gave him a pen to sign a medical release, Teasley became violent, Daly said. "This is a big guy," Daly said. "He raised the pen like a dagger," he said. "We tried to get it back." Daly said his officers were defending themselves against a man who, according to the coroner's office, was about 5-foot-11 and 240 pounds. John Wikswo, a Vanderbilt University biomedical engineer, said there is no way to tell in advance who has a medical condition that could lead to serious injury or death from a Taser. He said people with cardiac disease are likely to be more susceptible. Ed Jackson, spokesman for Amnesty International, said the organization wants agencies to stop using the weapon until independent medical testing can be done. Steve Tuttle, a spokesman for Taser International Inc., said there are only three other cases nationwide where the Taser has been listed as a contributing cause of death by medical examiners.

August 24, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A former state driver license examiner was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges she issued more than 100 licenses, permits and identification cards for up to \$1,000 apiece. Court documents allege former Division of Motor Vehicles worker Renee Friedman Jones, 51, entered into an agreement with two drug dealers to issue state documents to people ineligible because of criminal convictions, immigration status or lack of vehicle insurance. The indictment alleges Isidro Hernandez-Ramos and Jaime Arroyo Resendiz split the proceeds with Jones from people seeking fraudulent licenses, learner's permits or identification cards. Hernandez-Ramos and Resendiz have not been charged with helping to issue the licenses and permits. Hernandez-Ramos would call Jones, notifying her that someone was coming, the indictment alleges. "The individual would have the necessary paperwork (birth certificate, insurance, etc. - most of which was also fraudulent and procured through other sources). Jones and Ramos would agree on a password or mark which would be placed on the paperwork presented to Jones," the indictment states. Responding to terrorism fears, North Carolina in December made it tougher to get a driver license by limiting the number of documents that could be used as proof of identity. With the changes, people must prove they are North Carolina residents and provide a Social Security number if they have one or a federal tax ID number if they do not. Under the old rules, a bank statement, a payroll stub or a matricula consular - a Mexican ID card - could prove identity. Jones was indicted earlier this month. The document had remained under seal in federal court in Asheville until late last week. She is charged with two counts of issuing fraudulent licenses, four counts of money laundering and one count of making a false statement to drug agents. Jones declined comment Monday. She is under house arrest in her Asheville apartment. Her attorney, Charles Brewer, could not be reached for comment Monday. Jones, who is fluent in Spanish, met Hernandez-Ramos while she was temporarily working at the Marshall DMV office in Madison County. She was filling in for a DMV employee there who was terminated for illegally issuing driver licenses. The indictment said in one case, a man who was ineligible for a license because of a conviction was sent to Jones by Hernandez-Ramos. The man paid Hernandez-Ramos \$1,000 and received a birth certificate in the name of Jose Elias Fontan Reyes and fictitious insurance paperwork. He has not been charged. According to prosecutors, he presented the paperwork to Jones, which had specific markings in the corner. After he took the computerized and driving tests, Jones issued a license to him in the name of Reyes on Jan. 13. In another alleged instance, a woman described in the indictment as an illegal immigrant from Honduras had a learner's permit, but repeatedly failed the driving test. Resendiz directed the woman to Jones, who allowed her to perform the driving test in a parking lot and then issued a driver license. The woman paid Resendiz \$500. Resendiz was arrested in February on charges of possession with intent to sell and distribute cocaine and marijuana. A month later, Hernandez-Ramos was arrested on the same charges, according to federal indictments. Both pleaded guilty in federal court on the drug charges, but have not been sentenced. The men told Drug Enforcement Agency agents about obtaining illegal North Carolina licenses and identification cards though Jones, the Jones indictment states. Jones left the DMV July 23, but the agency would not say whether she quit or was fired.

August 26, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

There was a big drug bust Thursday morning after a man was pulled over for following too closely. Police say he was a drug runner, with a big haul. It's one of the biggest cocaine busts in Oconee County. What's more, the driver and his passenger are both in the country illegally. The two men are spending the night at the Oconee County Detention Center and are likely regretting that such a minor traffic violation got them in some major trouble. Two million dollars worth of trouble and 27lbs of it. Pure, premium, high-grade cocaine—likely on its way to be sold and resold to dealers and users. Sgt. Travis Tilson, of the Oconee County Sheriff's Office, says, "While we're not sure where the drugs were headed today, we are sure they're off the streets. That's a significant amount of cocaine to take off the street and it's not in the hands of another drug dealer tonight." All of the cocaine could have fit in the trunk of the car but the suspects tried to hide it in some paneling. The two suspects were driving northbound on Interstate 85 early Thursday morning from Atlanta in a 1984 BMW. Police say the two men are in the country illegally and neither is cooperating with investigators. But sheriff's deputies say the bust could have been much worse. This was a good clean bust where there were no weapons or violence; of course we're happy about that.

Everyone came away safe and we got what we were after today," says Tilson. Both men are being held without bail.

August 26, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The 17-year-old T.L. Hanna High School student who took the personal information of 1,800 students from a school computer was trying to impress a girl, Anderson County Sheriff Gene Taylor says. The sheriff also said deputies will likely charge the boy for taking the students' names, birth dates and Social Security numbers, which were on a disk left by a school employee in a computer lab used by students. After finding the data last week, the teen took the information home and posted it on his Web site in an area protected by a password. He also sent it to a 14-year-old girl in Connecticut and a fellow student in Anderson County, Taylor said. The teen did not try to sell the information, and the girl told authorities she didn't share the data with anyone else, Taylor said. "So far it looks like a juvenile stunt gone very bad," the sheriff said. The two students in the Upstate have been suspended. The State Law Enforcement Division is examining the computers and disks used by the students.

August 30, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Troopers investigating an apparent wreck discovered the victim was actually shot in the neck, authorities say. A resident of a dead-end street called police after finding a Ford Explorer crashed into a tree and a fence Monday morning, Greenville County Chief Deputy Coroner Mike Ellis said. Troopers investigating the wreck found evidence 20-year-old Curtis Harmon had been shot. An autopsy confirmed that, Ellis said. It appears Harmon was shot before the wreck, Ellis said. Investigators are trying to determine if Harmon was shot inside the vehicle or before. They also are trying to find out where the shooting took place, Master Deputy Michael Hildebrand said.

August 31, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Well is it a church or a sex palace? A business in Spartanburg County appears to be doubling as a place for worshipping God and worshipping women. FOX Carolina investigated the location near Greer on Highway 101. If you've driven down that road in the past week you're probably asking the same question. What used to be Beamers Bar and Grill is now "Thee Bunny Ranch." But under the barbed wire fence there's another sign that says "Church of Faith, Parsonage." Confused yet? If you're looking to worship you expect to see an altar, a pulpit, bibles and crosses inside. Instead, some people say you won't find God, you'll find Goddesses. And for a modest donation of \$300 you can have women, sex, and lots of it. Jane Doe says, "They had a huge hot tub, leather chairs, and private rooms." Jane Doe says her friend has been inside what looks on the outside to be a low security prison and at least three people described it the same way. It sounds much like a brothel in Reno, Nevada-- fully equipped with bars, spacious V.I.P rooms, and Jacuzzis. We tried going inside and contacting the preacher of this place, but apparently the church's leadership isn't available 24 hours a day. We did not get an answer at the steel gate. So we took our questions to the County's Buildings and Codes Office. Just last week the "church" was granted a license for a private club. Not for a church or a sexually oriented club. Michael Padgett, Director of Spartanburg County's Building and Codes says, "There's space requirements that have to be met, from churches, schools and they would have to comply." The property is listed to a Mary Penland who tells FOX Carolina she leases it out and knows

nothing about what goes on there. Until last June the “church” was actually Beamers Night Club. It was reportedly shutdown for complaints of drugs and prostitution. But people near the Greer area say they know better-- and what lies inside “Thee Bunny Ranch” is anything but holy. “Yeah, definitely, it’s like he’s looking for ways to get around what he’s done before. You know to make it seem like there’s not what is going to be when its going to be really what it was before”, says Doe. If the church is a sex palace the manager there had better start repenting. The penalties are pretty stiff and also apply to the entertainers.

September 2, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Investigators noticed an "unusual level of activity" on Anderson School District 5 computers a week after a T.L. Hanna High School student got access to students' personal information, school officials said. The two incidents appear to be unrelated, Anderson County deputies said. District officials plan to send a letter to parents about the latest incident, but are waiting for investigators to finish their work, Superintendent Betty Bagley said. The activity was detected on Aug. 26, but deputies told school officials to wait before disclosing the incident so they could try to track it, Sheriff Gene Taylor. It doesn't appear any of the district's computer files were looked at or copied by an unauthorized user, Taylor said. The district plans to have an outside company review its computer security. The most recent incident happened a week after a 17-year-old T.L. Hanna High School student found students' names, birth dates and Social Security numbers on a disk left by a school employee in a computer lab used by students. The student shared the information with two other teens and posted it on a password-protected area of his Web site.

September 2, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

New information Wednesday on a story we first broke Tuesday. Sex or salvation at "Thee Bunny Ranch" in Spartanburg County? There are lots of questions about a church near Greer that may really be a sex palace. Now another church, with the same name, has sprung up in Woodruff and upset neighbors there are on bended knee. On Tuesday night "Thee Bunny Ranch" was doubling as a church. Since our investigation aired the church signs have come down and gone up again. But it's what sits behind those gates still remains a mystery. If it was a church on Highway 101 it was probably unlike any you've ever seen. The building is secured by a barbed-wire fence. A black limousine is parked at the front door. The church's hours are 4pm-4am. Guests are by appointment only and entrance is granted for a modest donation of three hundred dollars. But once the gates open, some say you're more likely to see a penthouse of sin- not a house of worship. Instead of a rectory, recliners. No bibles, just bars and a bed. The confession rooms, really private rooms to fulfill your every fantasy. Jane Doe says, "It's like he's looking for ways to get around what he's done before. You know to make it seem like that's not what its going to be." And those concerned neighbors who don't want to be identified may be on to something. The signs that were just there Tuesday are on this building on South Main Street in downtown Woodruff. Our investigation uncovered the building is being leased to a Charles Penland- the same person who leases "Thee Bunny Ranch" on Highway 101. He also has a list of other properties he owns including Woodruff Auto Sales. Liz Marcellino, a concerned neighbor say, "For who's doing this, to get the business up and running, no, it doesn't surprise me. Money talks, money always will talk." Inside downtown Woodruff's latest religious addition, behind the heavily tinted glass are pool tables, a bar under construction and a stereo system with satellite. All red flags that what's advertised on the outside are different than the inside. "It's not going to be another church. Not with the activity they're bringing in. If it's a church they should bring in pews not gutting the walks, leather chairs in there," says Marcellino. Charles Penland has agreed to interview with FOX Carolina. We'll air that Thursday night at 10. As for the church in Woodruff, FOX Carolina has learned no permit has been issued there for business or occupancy.

September 2, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Police investigating the death of a trucker last week in Illinois found castor beans and castor residue in his home and the FBI is looking for possible links to a package containing ricin found at a Greenville mail center last year. Castor beans can be used to make ricin, the poison found in a small vial with a note threatening to dump large quantities of the poison into water supplies if federal officials didn't repeal a trucking rule. Police suspect the person who signed the note "Fallen Angel" in the Greenville incident was a trucker. In November, the Secret Service intercepted a similar letter containing ricin mailed to the White House. Aurora, Ill., police say Steven Aubrey, 34, who had worked as a driver for mail-hauling company, shot himself Aug. 26 after exchanging gunfire with officers. Police later discovered the body of his wife, Erica, 25, in a shallow grave. The Newark, Ill., postal worker had been strangled, Dan Ferrelli, an Aurora Police Department spokesman, said. Police searched Aubrey's house Sunday and found the castor beans and residue, explosives and a number handguns and automatic guns, he said. The castor beans were not identified until Tuesday, Ferrelli said. "There is no evidence that he was doing anything with those castor beans," Ferrelli said. "There is no evidence he was trying to make it into ricin," he said. While Aubrey worked for a mail-hauling company, all of his trips were local, Ferrelli said. "He never left state lines," he said. The couple had lived in Aurora for about four months after moving from another nearby town and Ferrelli had no information about Aubrey traveling out of the state before then. Still, the FBI is looking at the Illinois case to see if there is a connection to the Greenville ricin incident, Ann Middleton, the supervisory agent in the FBI's Greenville field office, said. "We're still looking for leads," she said. "We're still looking for any public assistance."

September 2, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

We showed you the mugshot of Vernon Case on Wednesday night. Tonight, he's behind bars. Yesterday, Greenville County Deputies searched the area near Coleman Trail and Cunningham Road, not once, but twice. Police say Case had a warrant for Burglary. Tonight we've learned that not only do police suspect him of several Burglaries in the Travelers Rest area, but he also has an extensive criminal record in Henderson County, North Carolina. In February he was held on thirty-one thousand dollars bond on Burglary and Larceny charges. Police say he is nationally registered as 'armed and dangerous', and to no surprise, he is considered an 'extreme risk for escape'. Harold Harris' home was burglarized yesterday during the manhunt, police think Case may be responsible. "It makes me feel better that he's behind bars, I'll sleep better tonight," says Harris. Police think Case may be responsible for several residential burglaries in the Travelers Rest area. If you suspect your home has been burglarized, and you live in Travelers Rest, call the Greenville County Sheriff's Office.

September 8, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

There's new information tonight in the ongoing investigation into the computer hacking incident at T.L.Hanna high school. On August 27th Fox Carolina showed you a statement from Anderson School District 5 Superintendent Betty Bagley. In that statement she said that Cisco, a national leader in the field of computer technology will be auditing the entire school districts computer system. Well so far no audit has even begun. In fact, in a memo sent from Betty Bagley today, the school district was to have a special board meeting tonight at 6pm. "the purpose of that meeting is to discuss a security audit of our computer system." according to Bill Baker, Communications Director for the school district, the audit hasn't been done because money hasn't been approved. Mike Brown from SLED says "this case is still an open investigation.", and Sheriff Gene Taylor of Anderson County told me this afternoon that "since 2003 somebody on the outside has had unlimited access to the entire Anderson District 5 computer system, but no problems have been detected as a result". As far as the 17 year old student who started this whole mess... Sheriff Taylor said, "we believe there was no real breach into the computer system with this individual." This

afternoon I spoke to Cisco Systems public relations representative Joe Fredoso and asked if Cisco has been contacted by Anderson School District 5, his response, "we have been contacted by Anderson School District 5 and are awaiting word to begin work". Public access to the district 5 website is still unavailable, but internal access with a passcode is being used.

September 11, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A 19-year-old was shot and killed in the parking lot of Pendleton High School after a Friday night football game. Investigators say 19-year-old Kevin Pitts shot and killed 19-year-old Anthony Hagood. Witnesses say Hagood was trying to break up a fight between his pregnant girlfriend, Courtney, and another girl. Now his family is in mourning. "I just miss him, I don't understand why this happened," said Eva Hagood, Anthony's grandmother. Investigators say Pitts shot Hagood in the chest with a 9mm handgun. On Saturday, family and friends gathered outside of the Hagood home to pay respects. Anthony Hagood's mother, Brenda Carson, says her son died trying to protect someone else. "He was honest and true and he was a loving kid and I'm going to miss him very much," commented Carson. Investigators say the people involved in the incident are not students at Pendleton High School. Kevin Pitts is being held at the Anderson County Detention Center on a murder charge.

September 15, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Three Anderson County sheriff's officers involved in a shooting during a standoff with a man wanted on murder charges have been placed on leave. Sgt. Mike Benninger, John Chandler and Brad Singleton have been placed on paid administrative leave while the State Law Enforcement Division investigates the shooting, said Anderson County sheriff's Capt. Dale McCard. Michael Davis, 40, was killed around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday after a nearly eight-hour standoff at a home in northern Anderson County. An autopsy showed that Davis had been shot twice in the back, once with a handgun and once with a rifle, said Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore. McCard said officers shot at Davis when he exited the house, armed with a handgun, and walked toward his car. Davis argued with deputies before the shooting, Shore said. McCard and Shore did not say whether Davis fired his weapon during the standoff. Deputies had been searching for Davis in connection with the fatal shooting of 37-

September 15, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A 19-year-old man has been charged with murder after his mother found a man shot to death in her home here. The woman who owned the mobile home found Robert Wayne Wilburn, 37, dead in the living room around 7 a.m. Tuesday, Anderson County deputies said. Wilburn died overnight of a single gunshot wound to the head, said Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore. Franklin Keith Graham has been charged with murder and is being held at the Anderson County Detention Center, a jail employee said. Graham was at her home Monday night, his mother told investigators, while she spent the night with a friend. Wilburn was last seen Monday night when he told his girlfriend he was going to the home get his gun back from a man there, authorities said.

September 15, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A man wanted for questioning in the fatal shooting of a Williamston man has been killed during a standoff with sheriff's deputies. Michael Davis, 40, was found dead outside a home around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday after deputies

fired shots and ended a nearly eight-hour standoff, authorities said. Anderson County sheriff's deputies had been searching for Davis since Monday evening when 37-year-old Tim Haynes was found shot to death outside his home. Deputies cornered Davis inside a mobile home around 1 p.m. Tuesday after a helicopter spotted his car partially hidden near a barn on the property. Deputies requested State Law Enforcement Division assistance after learning that Davis was armed. Over the course of the day, Davis walked out of the home to talk to officers and requested cigarettes, which the deputies gave him, but he refused to surrender, sheriff's Capt. Dale McCard said. SLED is investigating the shooting. McCard did not say how many shots had been fired or by whom. Haynes had reported Davis' threats to the sheriff's department at least twice this year, authorities said. Haynes said he feared Davis would harm him, his 10-year-old son or his family over a relationship he was having with Davis' estranged wife.

September 16, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Investigators are still searching for a former executive for Sara Lee Corp. who has been missing since a planned meeting with a couple interested in buying his sport utility vehicle. James Cockman, 71, has not been seen since Tuesday around 9:45 a.m. when he bought a cup of coffee at a convenience store near a lot where he was supposed to meet the couple. On Wednesday, deputies searched for Cockman by helicopter over the area near state highways 11 and 14. Deputies are also reviewing videotapes from store cameras. The Greenville County Sheriff's Office is treating it as a missing person case, and officials declined to say whether they suspect foul play. Cockman came to Greenville in 1985 as chairman and CEO of Sara Lee's PYA/Monarch division, then became chairman of Sara Lee Foodservice before retiring in 1992. Cockman had planned to meet a man and his wife who had agreed to buy a 1996 GMC Suburban the day before he went missing, his wife said. Cockman had received a \$100 deposit and was to collect the remaining \$8,400 Tuesday, she said. He didn't mention their names, she said. Cathy Cockman notified police after her husband failed to show up for a morning bank meeting. She drove to the meeting place and found his Jaguar with the door open. The Suburban was gone, but a bill of sale and the title were still in the car. "My husband is very meticulous," Cathy Cockman said. "That was so out of character." Cockman has played a major role in transforming Greenville into an urban and industrial hub. He was chairman of the chamber of commerce when BMW announced it was locating a manufacturing plant in the Upstate in 1992.

September 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Some of the people who live in one Greenville County community say there is a big problem at a home on Bagwell Circle. Linda Thompson says a dog owner is mistreating her pets. "They keep them chained up on the porch and it's really hot and they don't have no water no food," said Thompson. Investigators found one dog dead on the porch and gave several others a couple of snacks and some water. However, Keith Drummond, the Manager of Codes Enforcement for the County instructed an officer to take pictures as evidence. "It appears that there are several dogs here..one is dead in the front yard and the other are in stages of malnourishment," commented Drummond. Some of the neighbors say the dogs should be taken away. "The dogs can go to good homes and be taken care of," said one neighbor. Brittany Jamison owns the dogs and says there is a reason they are sick. "I think somebody poisoned my dogs because I found a trail in my yard," said Jamison. She keeps two dogs inside and says they are healthy, but says when she puts them outside they become ill. "I've lost 3 dogs from someone doing something to my dogs and I've got one that's sick and is about to die because of it," commented Jamison. Some neighbors say it's the appearance of four other dogs that bother them because you can see their ribs against their coats, but Brittany says it isn't her fault. "I wouldn't have so many if I didn't love them," said Jamison. Investigators did not charge Brittany with animal cruelty, but she must take them to a veterinarian and allow the doctor to determine if the dogs are sick because of malnourishment or poison.

September 19, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Greenville attorney has been sentenced to 20 months in prison after pleading guilty in a scam that cost a home lending company millions of dollars. U.S. District Court Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr. ordered Mark Douglas Lattimore to pay more than \$660,000 in restitution. Lattimore, once managing partner of Greenville-based Forquer, Green and Lattimore, has also had his license to practice law suspended, Assistant U.S. attorney Kevin McDonald said. Lattimore pleaded guilty in June to conspiracy to commit mail fraud. Prosecutors say Lattimore closed on 88 inflated home loans after the fraudulent mortgages were arranged by Anderson mortgage brokers at Service First Mortgage and the Kelly Mortgage Group. Both companies have been shut down, and more than a dozen of their brokers and appraisers were convicted of conspiracy to commit mail fraud earlier this year. Investigators believe the scheme involved more than 120 properties in Upstate South Carolina. The properties were being financed through Ohio-based National City Mortgage Co. In June, the company reported losses of more than \$3 million.

DESCRIPTION:

A search team found the car of a missing woman and child from Tennessee on Monday, but remained uncertain whether they were the latest victims of flooding spawned in the North Carolina mountains by the remnants of Hurricane Ivan. The car was submerged in the Pigeon River just off Interstate 40 in Haywood County. It contained luggage but no passengers, said Sgt. Pat Staggs, spokesman for a Highway Patrol division based in Asheville. The occupants had been reported missing earlier from Sevierville, Tenn. Eight deaths have already been blamed on the storm that swept through the region late last week. Rescuers using cadaver-sniffing dogs also found partial human remains Monday under tons of mud and debris that swept through a Macon County community in a landslide. There was no word late Monday on the identity of the remains found in the tiny Peeks Creek community. Renee Hoffman, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, said no new victims had been reported to her agency. So far, three people have been confirmed dead from the torrent that tore through the community late Thursday and Friday. A woman who survived remained hospitalized after doctors had to amputate one of her legs. She also lost the fetus she had carried for seven months. "We've just recovered some human remains and the search continues," Macon County emergency director Warren Cabe told Gov. Mike Easley, who flew over the state's hardest-hit areas in a North Carolina National Guard Blackhawk helicopter. Cabe identified the known victims of the Peeks Creek landslide as Sharon McCollum, 54, of Franklin, Colton McCollum, 3, of Franklin and Katie Watts of Pensacola, Fla. Watts' husband, James, was still missing, he said. The couple came to stay with family in Macon County to avoid Ivan's direct hit on the Florida Panhandle. The storm also killed two men in Buncombe County, a man in Henderson County and women in Haywood and Yancey counties. Easley said in a meeting with emergency officials that Ivan was the biggest storm to hit western North Carolina since 1978 and that it was only the latest blast of tropical weather to hit the state this season. Beginning in early August, weather from six hurricanes - Alex, Bonnie, Charley, Gaston, Frances and Ivan - battered North Carolina in succession, breaking a record set in 1893, Easley said. ***"We like to be No. 1 in certain things, but not in this," he said. Flying past Macon County's Fishhawk Mountain, where a large rockslide started the fatal chain of events, the governor said he was amazed that more homes weren't destroyed than the 15 that were swept away or severely damaged. Also visible from the air over Peeks Creek were large piles of debris and timber. Work crews could be seen trying to clear the main road into the community, which runs off N.C. Highway 28. Meeting with local officials at the Franklin airport, Easley said he would dip into the state's \$250 million rainy day fund to help with costs. "The message today is that you need to tell us what you need, and we'll get it for you," he said. "We're going to be fine. You will be OK up here, because everyone is pulling together." Cabe estimated property damage to be at least \$1.6 million in Peeks Creek. He said damage totals are still coming in from other areas of the county, which borders Georgia in the southwestern tip of the state. Returning to Asheville's airport, Easley held a similar meeting with emergency officials from that area, who told him Ivan did serious damage to agriculture, including the burley tobacco crop, which is in the middle of its harvest. The damage from Frances and Ivan in Buncombe County could be \$200 million or more, county emergency services director Jerry VeHaun said. Department of Transportation officials told Easley that Interstate 40 is open to traffic once again at the North Carolina-Tennessee border, but that work to build a retaining wall on the east side of the highway, where part of the road dropped into the Pigeon River, could take six to eight months. An engineer with the North Carolina Geologic Survey also flew over the landslide on Fishhawk Mountain on Monday, checking for cracks and fissures that could indicate unstable soil and the possibility of more landslides. Massive disruptions such as the landslide that happened last week can weaken surrounding land, said Randy Bechtel, an education geologist with the survey in Raleigh. "The good thing is, we're not expecting rain for several days, and that is really, really huge," Bechtel said. Gordon Meyers of the state DOT told Easley that officials are less concerned that work on the road will hurt tourism during the mountains' autumn leaf season, now that Interstate 26 is open between Asheville and the Tennessee border. "As far as tourism is concerned, we are open for business and things are fine," Easley said.

September 21, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Neighbors in Spartanburg County are growing more and more concerned about a scandalous story we first brought you at the beginning of the month. Are they selling sex or saving souls at what appears to be a sex palace loosely disguised as a house of worship? We broke the story a few weeks ago, and neighbors of "Thee Bunny Ranch" want to know what's really hopping inside. A lot of pressure is mounting on the County of Spartanburg after a number of church leaders met at Abner Creek Baptist Church demanding answers about what is really going on a little less than a mile away at "Thee Bunny Ranch." It sits on Highway 101, secured by a barbed-wire fence. A security code is required to get on the other side. Until recently, church signs were plastered there with unusual hours of operation. Rev. Frank Keels, of Abner Creek Baptist Church, says, "Of course it disturbs us." "Thee Bunny Ranch" in Spartanburg County looks much like "The Bunny Ranch" just outside Reno, Nevada. A world famous brothel where a lot of money can get anyone a lot of women and sex. Since our three week investigation aired earlier this month our tough questions about what's happening at "Thee Bunny Ranch" are raising a lot of eyebrows. About 30 leaders from six different churches met Tuesday night to try and stop anymore activity at "Thee Bunny Ranch." Ray Hatcher, Minister of Music at Burnsview Baptist Church, says "Well with a name like Thee Bunny Ranch I think you can assume what's going on there. I don't think its anything good." "It is of course against everything we believe as far as what is morally correct and what our values are and we certainly don't think it has a place in our community", says Keels. The operator of "Thee Bunny Ranch" is Charles Penland. The same man who owns Woodruff Auto Sales in Woodruff. Penland has repeatedly refused to go on camera but did tell us that the property off Highway 101 is his home and what happens there is nobody else's business. Laughing, Hatcher says, "Ha! Well if it's his home why does he call it 'Thee Bunny Ranch' and why is there a limo parked in the front yard, a lot of girls coming and going. I believe there's a little more going on than a home over there." "I'd like to see it closed down. Absolutely," says Keels.

September 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A former high-school girl's basketball coach pleaded guilty Monday to selling drugs to a student on school grounds. Heather Renee Sweat-Melancon, 23, admitted to a total of eight counts carrying a maximum prison sentence of more than 50 years. Prosecutors agreed to consolidate the charges and to dismiss other charges related to a search of her mobile home. The charges include selling drugs to a 15-year-old and possession of cocaine. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 5, and Sweat-Melancon will get a minimum prison term of 38 to 80 months. Her husband, John Mark Melancon, 27, pleaded guilty Monday to trafficking cocaine. He will be sentenced to 35 to 42 months in prison and a \$50,000 fine. Two students told school administrators Feb. 24 that they believed Sweat-Melancon, who also teaches physical education, gave cocaine to a 15-year-old female student at Graham High School. Administrators later found a small bag of cocaine in the student's purse, Bass said. A search of Sweat-Melancon's home turned up 45 grams of cocaine. An affidavit submitted with the search warrant included other allegations of Sweat-Melancon snorting cocaine with the student in her office and her mobile home. Administrators put Sweat-Melancon on paid suspension when she was arrested and fired her in April.

September 24, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Members of the Asheville police department's bomb squad disabled a possible homemade bomb that was discovered in front of the Buncombe County Courthouse annex, officials said. A county employee reported seeing the device near the building about 8 a.m. Friday. Bomb squad officials said the device was about the size of a newspaper box. The bomb squad disabled the device, said police Capt. Tom Aardema. He did not immediately return a phone call to The Associated Press. Both the annex and the Buncombe County administrative offices were evacuated, officials said. State elections director Gary Bartlett told The AP that the device was placed at the front door of the Buncombe County Board of Elections. "We do not know if it was a random act or if there was a threat

against an election officer," he said. After speaking with a Buncombe election official, Bartlett described the device as a soda bottle filled with a clear liquid. In the liquid there was a battery and wire. Atop the bottle sat some kind of light bulb similar to those found on Christmas trees, he said. Authorities cleared the area and deliberately detonated the device, he said. "The bomb worked. It exploded," Bartlett said.

September 23, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Two Tennessee residents have been arrested and charged in the abduction of a retired businessman missing for more than a week. A body found in a freezer in a storage facility in Sevierville, Tenn., is thought to be James Dale Cockman, 71, a retired executive with Sara Lee Corp., Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis said Thursday. Authorities did not have a cause of death Thursday. David Wendell Edens, 34, and Jennifer Annette Holloway, 27, both of Sevierville, were charged with kidnapping Cockman, missing since Sept. 14. Cockman was last seen when he bought a cup of coffee at a convenience store in northern Greenville County near a lot where he was supposed to meet a couple interested in buying his sport utility vehicle. Cockman had received a \$100 deposit on the vehicle and was to collect the remaining \$8,400 at the meeting, said Cathy Cockman, the victim's wife. Loftis said investigators think the couple forced Cockman into the vehicle and drove him to Tennessee. The body found in the freezer was not immediately identified as Cockman, but slacks on the body matched those Cockman was last known to be wearing, the sheriff said. Friends of Cockman had offered a reward of \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect, sheriff's Sgt. Shea Smith said. Cockman came here in 1985 as chairman and chief executive of Sara Lee's PYA/Monarch division, then became chairman of Sara Lee Foodservice before retiring in 1992. Cockman played a major role in transforming Greenville into an urban and industrial hub. He was chairman of the chamber of commerce when BMW announced it was locating a manufacturing plant in the Upstate in 1992. Renowned chef Paul Prudhomme was trying to spread the word about Cockman's disappearance. Prudhomme had known Cockman about 15 years since the two served together on the board of directors at the California Culinary Academy of San Francisco, said Shawn McBride, CEO of Prudhomme's company Magic Seasoning Blends.

September 25, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A coroner said Saturday that a retired Greenville businessman suffocated after carjackers wrapped his head in duct tape from his collar to his eyebrows. Greenville County Chief Deputy Coroner Mike Ellis said James D. Cockman, a 71-year-old retired Sara Lee executive, likely suffocated shortly after he was abducted and ruled his death a homicide. Ellis said the autopsy did not establish where Cockman died but said he died shortly after 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 14, the day he disappeared. On Friday, a federal judge ordered a Tennessee couple returned to South Carolina to face charges that could carry the death penalty in the carjacking. U.S. Magistrate Clifford Shirley ordered David Wendell Edens, 34, and Jennifer Annette Holloway, 27, transferred to federal court in Greenville. They are charged with kidnapping and carjacking. U.S. Marshal Johnny Mack Brown said Saturday that he expects the marshal's service to bring them to Greenville early next week. The Sevierville couple was arrested Thursday in connection with Cockman's Sept. 14 disappearance. Authorities found Cockman's body in a freezer in a storage shed near Sevierville. According to an FBI affidavit filed in federal court, Holloway has told investigators that she and Edens had forced a man they knew as Jim into the back of his Suburban on Sept. 14 and covered his mouth with duct tape, but that they didn't know he had died until they arrived home in Tennessee.

September 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

One man was arrested and two others were on the run after a house was destroyed by fire when a methamphetamine lab exploded, police said. Kyle Johnson, 22, who was renting the house, turned himself in hours after the explosion early Monday morning, Unicoi County Sheriff Kent Harris said. Johnson was not at home when

the fire occurred. "He called me and turned himself in," Harris said. "He knew what was going on at the house." He was to be arraigned Tuesday on an array of charges linked to the explosion, including manufacturing schedule II drugs and reckless burning of a house. Two Anderson, S.C., men fled the scene and were believed to be traveling back to South Carolina, Harris said. "I understand they are injured, and we aren't releasing their names as we feel we will be making arrests in cooperation with authorities in South Carolina," Harris said. Harris said the South Carolina men were cooking meth in the back of the house. Police found an anhydrous ammonia tank, lithium strips, dehydrated alcohol and ephedra deposits on the property, he said. "It was a fireball," Harris said of the explosion. "And it is simply amazing that the people inside survived."

September 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Fewer women were killed by men in South Carolina in 2002 than the year before, helping move the state from No. 1 to No. 6 in a national ranking, according a study by the Violence Policy Center. In 2002, 49 women died at the hands of men, the center's annual report said. That's a homicide rate of 2.32 per 100,000 residents. The 2001 data showed 64 women were killed by men in the state, a rate of 3.15 per 100,000 residents, the highest rate in the nation. The Violence Policy Center, based in Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit group advocating gun control. Four years ago, in a study based on 1998 data, South Carolina also ranked No. 1 for the number of women killed by men. The state has been in the Top 5 each year of the study. The lower rate is an improvement, state Attorney General Henry McMaster said. But "the number is still outrageously high and it needs to come down. It needs to come down to zero." The 2002 figures don't show the impact of changes in the state's domestic violence and abuse laws in the past couple years. For instance, tougher domestic violence and abuse penalties hit the law books last year. McMaster last year launched a program in two counties that trains volunteer lawyers to prosecute domestic violence cases. "I think we've had over 300 convictions and a hundred dismissals," McMaster said. The program is expanding to York County and eventually will be spread throughout the state. Tougher laws and better enforcement should help break a violence cycle that spreads from battering and battered spouses to children who follow those examples when they grow up, McMaster said. "It is slow, but we are making enormous progress," McMaster said. The Violence Policy Center's study on South Carolina deaths showed in cases where weapon, relationship and circumstance could be determined: _ 30 of 44 victims were killed with guns, with just over half shot with handguns. _ 41 of 44 victims knew the person who killed them and 29 were killed by husbands, ex-husbands, common-law spouses or boyfriends. _ 30 of 43 deaths involved arguments.

September 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A federal judge denied bond today for the two people facing carjacking charges in the abduction and death of a retired Sara Lee executive. Authorities say James D. Cockman, 71, died after his face was wrapped in duct tape when he disappeared on Sept. 14. Police arrested a Tennessee couple in connection with his death and found Cockman's body in a freezer. Prosecutors have charged David Wendell, 34, Edens and Jennifer Annette Holloway, 27, with kidnapping and carjacking. Prosecutor Robert Ariail also says he likely will seek the death penalty.

Attachments



Education

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
-------------	-------------	----------------

July 19, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
---------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION

A warning about a scam that preys on anyone with a student loan. For a small fee, someone is offering to wipe away thousands of dollars of your debt. Anyone of us can get the phone call – it's from a person claiming to be with the Department of Education. The offer: a grant to payoff your much needed loans. With the cost of college going up every year more and more students are finding it harder than ever to pay for school. Jessica Evans, a college freshman says: "you get involved in a good program like radiology; you're looking at 10-12-thousand dollars a year". That's thousands of dollars that's hard to come by so students like Evans find themselves falling back on student loans – the only way for some to finance their way through school. "It's getting high. It's ridiculous now. It cost me close to 500 dollars for books along and tuition for classes is getting worse every year," says Evans. And scam artists know it – which is why the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators released an alert today warning vulnerable college students about an individual calling them offering an 8-thousand dollar grant. All you need is to give up your account number, and pay a small processing fee. But officials warn students to think twice about such a good deal – there are no programs to replace loans with grants and there is no processing fee for any grants. Evans says, "That's just wrong. It's like dangling a dream in front of someone and taking it away. Students count on this, it's not fair". If you have already fallen for this scam there are several things you can do to still protect yourself and help foiled the scheme: Immediately contact your bank, explain the situation and request bank monitor account. Report fraud to ED's office at 1-800-647-8733.

July 23, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
---------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION:

School's just around the corner. Are you already worried about your child being alone after class? There's some new help out there for parents like you. It's a new website unveiled by the South Carolina After School Alliance. It tells parents about after-school programs throughout the state. Turns out there are more than 12-hundred options. For more information log onto www.scafterschool.com

July 26, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
---------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION:

Wofford named Edgar Farmer Jr. women's basketball coach, the fourth person to lead the team since 2002. Farmer, an assistant the past two seasons, replaces Samantha Young, who went 0-28 in her only season at the school. Wofford athletic director Richard Johnson said Farmer's work as an assistant showed he was ready for the promotion. "He's a great fit for our department and college," Johnson said. Before coming to Wofford, Farmer spent two years as an assistant coach at East Carolina. He was also an assistant men's coach at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College. Farmer will be the latest to try to stabilize Wofford's women's team. Head coach David Graves left to become an assistant at Western Kentucky following a 16-13 season in 2001-2002. Ed Wyant, Graves' replacement, was 4-24 the next year before he resigned, leading to Young's short tenure.

August 5, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A disabled student says she was raped by two boys at two different Greenville County schools, according to a lawsuit. The suit is the fifth filed against the Greenville County School District since February by female students saying they were sexually assaulted while at school. School district spokesman Oby Lyles would not talk about the suits, saying school officials cannot discuss pending litigation. In the latest suit, the student said she was raped at one school during school hours, then transferred to another school, where a different boy sexually assaulted her twice. In both cases, teachers had left their classes unsupervised, her lawyers said. The girl's lawyers argue the district was negligent because it left students unattended and did not change its procedures to prevent the girl from being assaulted a second time.

August 9, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Large Powerball jackpots helped fuel lottery ticket sales of \$950 million for the fiscal year that ended June 30, according to lottery officials. After payouts of \$552 million in prizes, the state was left with about \$270 million - \$17 million more than expected - to help pay for college scholarships, according to unaudited revenue statements the lottery released to The (Columbia) State newspaper. The report will be final by Oct. 1. In the previous fiscal year, the lottery sold \$724 million in tickets and paid out \$415 million in prizes. The Legislature decides how the excess revenue is spent, lottery spokeswoman Tara Robertson said. The multi-state Powerball game has increasing jackpots if there is no winner for a drawing. The larger jackpots, which can get into the hundreds of millions of dollars, draw more gamblers. Two jackpot-winning tickets were sold in South Carolina stores this year.

August 10, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

It's only the second day of school for students in Buncombe County, North Carolina, but the teachers at Emma Elementary School have been brushing up on their lesson plans for weeks. Diane Livingston, a 37-year-veteran of the educational system, says "anything that we think would motivate our children to learn more ... we're out there finding what it is." But while teachers in Buncombe County are busy gearing up for the school year, in many other parts of the state, teachers might not even be completely qualified to teach. New guidelines in the No Child Left Behind Act could actually leave 3-quarters of the nation's rural and small town schools far behind. A report by the Southeast Center for Teacher Quality states that a "Rural Flexibility Provision" now allows 27-school districts in North Carolina to loosen the restrictions for teachers -- which means they'll be given a few extra years to meet the No Child Left Behind Act requirements. The report says teachers need to focus on more than just subject matter, that they also need to know individual student needs and skill levels. Teacher Sherie Ryan-Bailey says, "you have to be experts in a lot of areas ... you cannot just be an English teacher or a math teacher, you need to know a lot about science and social studies and English and math and child behavior and so many variables..." Robin Parker has twins in the fourth grade, and is happy Buncombe County isn't part of the Rural Flexibility Provision, because she believes it takes more than just smart teachers to educate children -- it takes teachers who are also compassionate people. Parker says at Emma Elementary School, "the kids are treated as their own kids too ... you have the atmosphere that this is a loving family and you're happy to have your kids here." While there is widespread approval of the No Child Left Behind Act, many people say it needs to be reworked to better fit the individual needs of states and school districts.

August 18, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

It's a parent's worst nightmare and for one mother in Spartanburg County it's come true. Her five year old daughter was dropped off at the wrong bus-stop in the middle of a busy intersection then picked up by another family. But the incident was even more horrifying for the five year old. It was her first day of school and her first time on a school bus. Spartanburg District Five says it was a mistake. Her mother says it's a mistake that should have never happened. Karla Manriquez is fine now but her mother couldn't help but think about what could have happened to her daughter when she was dropped off on West Main and South Spencer streets. It's a busy intersection, with railroad tracks-- and a five year old left to find her way, on her own. Christina Manriquez says, "Anything, anything. I mean the wrong people could have picked her up and that could have been the last time I seen my kid. So everything, every worst case, scenario went through my mind." But even more disturbing about this so-called "mistake" is that Karla was wearing a sticker on her shirt and an I.D. tag around her neck. Clearly spelling out where the bus driver should drop her off and how to reach her mother. If it wasn't for another family picking up their daughter, Karla may have never made it home. The district tells Fox Carolina it sometimes has more than 6,000 kids to take care of and sometimes errors are made. That's unacceptable to Manriquez. "What if I find my child dead somewhere? Oops, imp sorry? No, I can't take that," Manriquez says. District Administrators say they're not trying to dodge the issue but still refused to go on camera. They did tell Fox Carolina that after the mistake was made earlier this week bus drivers are not allowed to dismiss elementary students without a parent there. Manriquez says, "I haven't even been told what will happen to the bus driver, is she fired? Or is there an excuse as to why my kid was dropped off at the wrong spot?" District administrators told us the bus driver in Karla's case will not be punished- unless they find a reason to. Fox Carolina also spoke with other parents who say their kids were also dropped off in the wrong spot-- the district says it's not aware of those incidents.

August 24, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock news

DESCRIPTION:

A student at T.L. Hanna High School was able to get names, birth dates, Social Security numbers and other information about 1,800 current and former students, school officials say. None of the information has been used fraudulently so far, but school officials sent a letter home with students Monday explaining what happened. The school and Anderson County deputies disagree on how the information, which didn't include grades or medical data, was obtained by the 17-year-old student. The student told deputies he let the school know the information was available Thursday through a computer in a lab used by students, Anderson County Sheriff's Capt. Dale McCard said. "He downloaded that information to his Web site, more so as a record that he was able to do that," McCard said. The teen told administrators about the breach again on Friday, and they started to investigate, McCard said. The student has cooperated fully with investigators, and unless deputies find criminal intent, they don't plan to charge him, McCard said. Anderson County District 5 Superintendent Betty Bagley said she is alarmed that deputies seem to believe the student's story even though no one else has been interviewed. School officials are worried because the file containing the data was placed on a student's personal Web site, as well as the student's home computer and on a disk at the student's home. The Web site has since been shut down. Both the school and deputies refused to identify the teen. The student has been suspended, and the district will likely try to expel him, Bagley said. Since the information included student computer login names and passwords, the school has shut down its computer network, Bagley said. It will likely be several days before the computers are put back online, she said. School officials have scheduled three meetings for parents to talk to them about what they can do to protect their children's personal information.

August 25, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A school district employee has been suspended as Anderson District 5 officials investigate how a student got access to names and Social Security numbers of hundreds of students at T.L. Hanna High School. An investigation by district officials shows a district employee put the information on a computer disk and used that disk in a student computer lab at the school, Superintendent Betty Bagley said at a meeting with parents Tuesday night. School officials think a 17-year-old male student took the information from that lab late last week. "It should never have been used there," Bagley said. The employee had no intention of giving anyone unauthorized access to the information, Bagley said. The employee, who was not identified, is on administrative leave with pay. The student did not have to hack into the computer to get the information but should not have been trying to see it, Bagley said. The student did not inform a school staff member about having seen the file until last Thursday, Bagley said. The student shared the information with two other people and put it on his personal Web site. Anderson County sheriff's Capt. Dale McCard said no charges have been filed, but the incident is still under investigation.

August 25, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

There will be no more peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches or franks and beans at one school district in Maine. The lunch menu is being changed for the safety of a highly allergic child. The Miller School in Warren is also telling parents not to send children to school with anything containing peanuts, sunflower seeds, poppy seeds, sesame seeds or legumes such as dried peas and beans. Several students at the school are allergic to those foods, but one child's sensitivity is life-threatening. The superintendent says the child could have a severe reaction simply by smelling the breath of someone who has eaten one of those foods. An allergy specialist at Eastern Maine Medical Center says such allergies are on the rise because of an increasingly nut-rich American diet

August 26, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

State education budget cuts are teaching parents a hard lesson about what is needed in the classroom and it could affect your child's education. Store managers at stores like Wal-Mart in Greenville County post school supply lists in the front of the store for several elementary schools. Some of the items on the list include gallon size zip lock bags, boxes of Kleenex and computer discs. It's a list that can become expensive. Crayons, erasers and notebook paper are being used by second graders at Duncan Chapel Elementary school to help them learn, but sometimes a little more is needed in the classroom. "Extra things like glue sticks, and wipes and soap just add to making the classroom more functional," said Julie Miller, a Teacher Assistant. The problem: school districts across the state can't afford to provide these items for children. "That budget has to be used to buy text books and maintain the school and all those things," commented Miller. So those items end up on what's called a school supply list and parents know they are expected to buy pencils and paper, but now they're being asked to dig a little deeper. "Teachers are asking for tissues and hand sanitizer. I just don't understand why the school can't supply that," says Vickie Gunnells. Gunnells has made four trips to Wal-Mart to grab items from three school supply lists. "It's getting a little crazy, it's costing us a lot more money than it ever did," said Gunnells. The bill is totaling hundreds of dollars for her two children who attend schools in Greenville County, the largest school district in the state. However, it's a district feeling the pain of deep budget cuts as teachers try to manage overcrowding in the classroom and school board members attempt to balance a \$333 million budget. School administrators say the items on these lists are not mandatory, but are needed for your child's education. If there are some parents who can not afford school supplies, teachers often share or buy them for the children in their classrooms.

August 26, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A survey paid for by a statewide tourism coalition has found that about four of five parents of South Carolina schoolchildren want classes to start later in August. But some school officials say the survey is one-sided and did not give parents a chance to consider other factors that might make an earlier start date preferable. Nearly 80 percent of 898 respondents favored an Aug. 20 or later start, while the remaining 20 percent want classes to resume between Aug. 2 and 20. The survey was conducted by Coastal Carolina University and was paid for by the South Carolina Travel and Tourism Coalition, which favors later starts. The findings may strengthen tourism leaders' push for later start dates. Tourism leaders say early August starts cost South Carolina's \$15 billion tourism industry as much as \$180 million annually because it takes away vacation time from families in the state. The survey told parents that later start dates could mean more business. Educators say students need more time in class to prepare for year-end tests. "This is a defining moment because before we couldn't validate what parents think," said Brad Dean, president of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. "Loud and clear: Four out of five prefer later starts." Parents have long had a say on the issue as their local school boards set the calendars, said Robert Scarborough, executive director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. "We believe it should be a local issue, and the parents in a local community can best understand the local culture." Scarborough said people often respond to surveys without considering other influences, in this case, the need for students to be prepared for year-end tests. The South Carolina Travel and Tourism Coalition funded the survey with a \$9,400 grant. The coalition wanted an independent group to get statewide input, said Bennish Brown, coalition chairman. Some parents who want later starts hope the survey will help them organize. "I would hope this can be the genesis of parents coming together in a more formalized network," said Larry McKeown of Columbia, who was not one of the parents surveyed. The surveys were mailed to 7,500 randomly selected parents across the state; about 12 percent responded. The surveyed parents represent all 46 counties and have 1,985 children in South Carolina schools, said Jerome Christia, who conducted the study. Other results: _ Of those who wanted later start dates, about 45.3 percent wanted school to start after Labor Day and 34.6 percent preferred the first day come between Aug. 20 and Labor Day. _ About 43.7 percent said they definitely would travel if schools started after Labor Day, while 11.7 percent said they wouldn't. The rest said they might take a trip. _ 52.3 percent of those who would travel would do so in South Carolina.

August 26, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

College students who receive state scholarships would be required to perform community service to help schoolchildren under a proposal being considered by the state Commission on Higher Education. The commission discussed the proposal at a meeting this week and could push for the new rule during next year's legislative session. The proposal is in response to a commission study last year that showed half of South Carolina's ninth-graders fail to graduate high school within four years and only 14 percent of graduates earn bachelor's degrees. "We realized we had these problems, but we didn't realize the extent of it. The statistics really hit you in the face," said commission chairman Dalton Floyd. The plan would require students to perform a service like tutoring or mentoring in a nearby public school district. The hope is that college students would serve as role models to younger students and ultimately help curb the high number of high school dropouts. The proposal would affect 33,000 students who receive LIFE, HOPE and Palmetto Fellows scholarships each year and would be the first requirement of its kind in the country. "It's a wonderful idea, but I'm not sure it would work," said Amanda Anderson, a senior at Columbia College who receives a LIFE scholarship. "Everybody's got a pretty full schedule and most students have classes at the same time kids are in school. But it would be good for us to give something back." Justin Williams, a University of South Carolina freshman with a LIFE scholarship, said he wouldn't have any trouble finding some time for community service. "I think it's a good idea, and I was actually surprised there wasn't already something like that that we needed to do," he said. South Carolina has spent more than \$400 million on scholarships since the first program was created in 1988. Requiring most scholarship recipients to perform community service would be the first program of its kind, said Don Heller of Penn State's Center for the Study of

Higher Education. "There are some work-study programs that require public service, but nothing like this," Heller said. "It will be an interesting case study, and politics will probably dictate what happens to (the proposal)." Some lawmakers voiced concern about the impact the new rule could have on working students. "We'll have to look very carefully at this because we don't want to hurt students financially, and a scholarship usually doesn't cover all college costs," said Sen. John Courson, R-Columbia. Francis Marion University President Fred Carter told commissioners that perhaps freshmen should be exempt from the proposal because of poor scholarship retention rates. More than 40 percent of college freshmen can't maintain the B-average needed to keep the merit-based LIFE scholarship, by far the state's most popular award. "What we don't want to do is give them an excuse as to why they're not more successful in retaining the scholarships," Carter said.

August 31, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Greenville Hospital System has achieved University Medical Center status. It's part of a mission to improve health research and services not only in the Upstate, but across South Carolina. The hospital will partner with The University of South Carolina, USA Upstate, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Palmetto Health, and Greenville Tech. A 22-acre Health Sciences Research, Education, and Innovation Institute will be built on the GHS campus and will serve as a medical research and education center. Jerry Youkey, GHS VP for Academic Affairs, says "ultimately what that means for the patients in the Upstate is that we will see more and more integration of research and education in their patient care which in the end raises the quality and the level of care that patients are able to access here." Groundbreaking on the health sciences campus is expected before the end of 2004. It should be complete by the end of 2005, with classes and research starting in 2006.

September 2, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Both Belton-Honea Path High School buses that caught fire in the past week had a failure of the same engine part, state education officials say. An engineering associate from the Education Department examined the buses Wednesday. A problem with a turbo would not have been detectable through the regular maintenance, said Robbie Adams, the state's supervisor for Anderson County buses. A bus carrying Belton-Honea Path High School band members Friday night broke down as it approached the Greenville-Anderson county line on U.S. Highway 76. Football coaches following the bus spotted smoke and got out to extinguish it. About 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, another bus's engine caught fire as the vehicle was transporting students back to the high school from the Career and Technology Center in Williamston. No students were seriously injured in either case. Both buses will be repaired, Adams said.

September 14, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Converse College has dedicated a \$10.6 million science building as the all-women's college seeks to make its graduates more competitive in a field typically pursued by men. The 36,000 square-foot Phifer Science Hall will house lecture rooms and laboratories as well as a custom-designed green house. Converse began building the facility in 2000 to become more competitive among women's colleges, where science graduates tend to pursue careers in the field at a greater rate than women at coeducational institutions, school officials said. "Women's colleges provide an environment where women naturally develop into leaders, in part because they are able to be uninhibited in academic settings," said Converse president Nancy Oliver Gray. "Women learn that they can be and

do anything they aspire to do. Phifer Science Hall gives them tools for educational training that puts them on the forefront of science careers in today's competitive job market." Phifer Science Hall is named for Converse alumna and board of trustee member Susan "Susu" Phifer Johnson and was constructed with funds from the college's \$82.5 million capital campaign.

September 19, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Five South Carolina schools have been honored by the U.S. Department of Education for creating learning environments that encourage student achievement and improvement. The National Blue Ribbon Schools program honors public and private K-12 schools whose students achieve at the highest levels or have made significant progress in closing achievement gaps. The South Carolina honorees are Honea Path Elementary School in Anderson District 2, Pate Elementary School in Darlington County, Carolina Forest Elementary School in Horry County, Midway Elementary School Lexington District 1, and Fort Mill High School in York District 4.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
-------------	-------------	----------------

July 1, 2004	10:00pm	10 O'clock News
--------------	---------	-----------------

DESCRIPTION

South Carolina's new regulations on open burning have gone into effect, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control reported today. "These rules are designed to help improve our air quality and to protect the public's health," according to Myra C. Reece, DHEC's chief of the Bureau of Air Quality. "The goal is to reduce smoke and other emissions that contribute to ground-level ozone pollution." Reece said the revised regulations are part of the state's Early Action Compact process to improve air quality. The initiative involves DHEC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, state and local governments, industry, environmental groups and others interested in bringing cleaner air sooner to South Carolinians. The EPA earlier this year identified several South Carolina areas that were not meeting new federal ozone pollution standards. "Additional restrictions on open burning were needed because the smoke from burning pollutes the air and can cause health problems for children and adults," Reece said. Without exception, under the new open burning regulations it is illegal to burn: Household garbage and trash- Paper- Motor and waste heating oils- Roofing Materials such as shingles and tar- Tires and other rubber products- Plastics- Paints- Household cleaners- Farm Chemicals · Electrical wire and Insulation and duct work.

August 11, 2003	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
-----------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION:

Clemson University researchers are trying to find ways to ease damage from floods like those last month in Greenville. Civil engineering professor David Werth said certain plants slow rushing water, causing backup and overflow. Werth wants to identify plants that allow water to flow freely to help cities and town plan developments around waterways. "People don't like concrete," Werth said. "Our goal is to ultimately be able to recommend certain types of plants that will prevent erosion and will also have the least impact on floodwaters." Last month, more than 175 homes were damaged after heavy rains flooded the Greenville area. Werth also said his research could help the Federal Emergency Management Agency better estimate the size of flood plains. The first stage of Werth's experiments measured the resistance of living plants to water rushing through a 100-foot-long outdoor flume at a rate of 15,000 gallons per minute. The second stage will change the density of the plants and the plants used. City of Clemson engineer Ben Rankin said the city tries to minimize the amount of hard surfaces that allow water to run into streams and rivers rather than absorb into the ground. "We try to minimize the effects of development, but as time goes by, you get more and more development," Rankin said. "Just from a commonsense perspective, we're supportive of any type of research" into flood prevention.

August 13, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Are you and your trees safe from the possible wrath of Mother Nature? Thousands of trees and communities are damaged annually by heavy rains, and wind. But yours can be spared from the worst damage by following a few practical suggestions from the International Society of Arboriculture. "Recognizing and reducing tree hazards not only increases the safety of your property and that of your neighbors, but also improves the tree's health and may increase its longevity," said Jim Skiera, ISA's Executive Director. **Beware of potential hazards** : Cracks in the trunk of major limbs; Hollow, aged, and decayed trees; One-sided or significantly leaning trees; Branches that hang over the house near the roof; Close proximity of utility lines. **Take precautions to prevent damage**: Remove dead, diseased, and damaged limbs. Consider removing trees with large cavities of decay. Leaning trees may indicate a root problem; have them inspected. Branches too close to your house, a building, or the street should be pruned to provide clearance. Branches that are too close or touching utility lines need to be pruned or removed. If this work is needed, report it to your local utility company - **DO NOT** prune the tree yourself. Heavy rains and wind can cause trees to crack, split, and even uproot. Severe storms with heavy rains can soak the soil so thoroughly that tree roots cannot stay fastened in the ground during strong winds. An ISA certified arborist can help determine if broken trunks and limbs should be removed or if uprooted trees can be saved or replanted. The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research around the world. Headquartered in Champaign, Ill., ISA is dedicated to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees. For more information, find a local ISA Certified Arborist through www.isa-arbor.com or visit www.treesaregood.com.

August 14, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Hurricane Charley made a second landfall Saturday morning as it struck the coast of South Carolina with winds of 85 miles per hour, spawning tornado and flood watches. Most of the state's Grand Strand resort region stood nearly empty after a mandatory evacuation of some of the area's 180-thousand tourists and residents. By noon, Governor Mark Sanford had lifted those evacuation orders. Sanford visited a shelter and the emergency operations center in Conway after the storm passed. Sanford says South Carolina was spared by Mother Nature. Hurricane Charley was blamed for at least 13 deaths in Florida and thousands of people were homeless. Charley caused widespread damage to coastal areas of Florida and knocked out power to an estimated one-point-three million homes and businesses. South Carolina Electric and Gas spokesman Robin Montgomery says about 32-thousand customers lost power in Charleston's East Cooper area. Power had been restored to all but about 25-hundred by 9 p-m. Officials with Santee Cooper say more than 65-thousand customers in Myrtle Beach, Conway, Murrells Inlet and Pawleys Island have lost power. Power had been restored to all but about 15-thousand by 9 p-m.

August 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Upstate conservation groups say they will give money and volunteers to help save two trails near a popular park in the South Carolina mountains. The two trails were recently closed after 34.6 acres of land near Caesars Head State Park was sold to several developers and investors. The volunteers with Naturaland Trust and Upstate Forever will cut a new trail outside of the private property. They have not determined how much it will cost, or whether the new part of the trail will be permanent or just a quick measure to get the trail back open. "My interest is limited to getting the real popular Rim of the Gap rerouted so it can open up again," Naturaland Trust founder Tommy Wyche said. "We can do it with zero cost to the state and it won't touch or come close to the property." State officials are reviewing plans to cut new trails, and efforts to reroute the paths will rely on volunteers and time more than money, Caesars Head State Park manager Joe Anderson said.

September 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Hurricane Frances could show her might along the Carolina-Georgia border, which means people may be packing up and heading for the Upstate. The upcoming Labor Day weekend is a busy travel holiday as it is and now with the threat of Hurricane Frances, the South Carolina State Highway Patrol is already anticipating a chaotic ride for drivers. According to Lance Corporal, Dan Marsceau with the State Highway Patrol, "Our first priority is to the safety of the motoring public." And plenty of drivers are expected to be on the roads this Labor Day weekend, but the holiday is just one factor affecting your trip down the highways, and patrol officer's efforts to keep everyone safe. "We have a holiday weekend, which is heavy traffic, we have a ball-game in town and we have bad weather heading for our coast....It will be stretching us thin," says Marsceau. But the threat of Hurricane Frances may cut down on some travelers hitting the highways. Keith Zimmerman is planning a trip to the beach, but says, "It'll change my mind, I won't be down there, not to the coast knowing it is coming. I've done some crazy things and that's not one of them." John Watkins is staying at home and thinks others will too, "I imagine it's probably going to put a damper on a lot of people's weekends and stuff, there probably won't be as much travel to the beach." State Highway Patrol officers will be out in full force, ready for whatever happens, and encourages drivers to do the same. "Motorists need to be aware of the weather, that's the biggest thing and to be knowledgeable that as the weather deteriorates, they may need to change their plans," says Marsceau. There may also be an increase in traffic as people evacuate from other states, but Highway Patrol says they have plans in place and will put them into action if necessary.

September 1, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Hurricane Frances is heading right toward some of the most popular vacation areas along the coast of Florida. Some of those vacation spots have already implemented voluntary evacuations and that means your travel plans may be put on hold. While some can reschedule or change reservations, others have no choice but to move forward with your trip, regardless of Frances' approach. Robin Cox of Greenville says, "It's huge and it's bigger to me than it is to anybody right now." Frances is bigger to Cox because her daughter, Ashley is getting married Sunday, on a cruise ship. As if a wedding isn't enough stress, try adding in a category four hurricane and a flight scheduled to land in Orlando the same time Frances hits Florida. "A lot of tears, a lot of tears and so I'm just wiping her tears and trying to stay calm and her dad is monitoring the weather channel 24 hours a day," says Cox. According to Cox, it's a trip that's been planned for months and can't be rescheduled, "As it stands right now, everything is still a go, Royal Caribbean has not changed our plans whatsoever." Which means, while Ashley and her fiancé, David, fly to Florida, Robin and her family may be driving right into the storm, "It's our plan to go ahead and go." But if you can reschedule your trip, travel agents encourage it. They say most airlines and cruise lines will let you reschedule or change plans without penalty. You can log onto the carriers' website and find the latest information on changes, delays and how to reschedule. But you need to make changes before the original travel date. Dee Brady-Bissette, the manager at Travel Group says, "All of the providers want people to travel and to travel safely. The best thing is just watch what is going on with the weather because Frances is going to determine everything." Cox is hoping her prayers will keep Frances from ruining her daughter's big day, "My biggest concern is getting to Florida and staying safe."

September 3, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

State environmental permit applications weren't filed before Clemson University and its contractor cleared land for an automotive research park in Greenville. Greenville City Councilman Garry Coulter worries that irreparable damage has been done to 14 acres at the site off Interstate 85 in Greenville. Plans Clemson showed the city on the project didn't prepared him for what he saw at the site: no trees and no hills. "It's too late," Coulter said. "Now we're left with mitigation." Construction on an 80,000-square-foot building that will be owned by Clemson and occupied by BMW Manufacturing is expected to begin in mid-September at the International Center for Automotive Research. That Information Technology Research Center will involve a partnership with IBM and Microsoft to improve automotive software systems and software/hardware compatibility for BMW products. The state Department of Health and Environmental Control is investigating why the applications weren't submitted and if the unapproved development will impact the environment, said spokeswoman Clair Boatwright. A DHEC representative visited the site Thursday and found no environmental problems and no major sediment control issues, she said. DHEC doesn't think the mistake was serious or intentional, she said. "It's an extremely complicated process," Boatwright said. "It's not unusual for something like this to occur, but it's not common either." The permitting problem was an oversight, Clemson spokeswoman Cathy Sams said. "I see where there's been some confusion. I think the bottom line is this is a complicated project. If there's a gap in making sure all of the right paperwork has been turned in, we will get it straightened out." Paperwork was filed the way officials thought it was supposed to be, Bob Geolas, executive director of the Clemson ICAR project, said. Sams said contractors didn't send materials to DHEC because they thought a memorandum of understanding between the state engineer and the city of Greenville meant the city would be responsible for obtaining permits for the site. Sams said contractors submitted a building permit and a flood hazard application to the city, but not a site grading permit application. Geolas said he has talked to Coulter about his concerns. "What we're going to do there is going to be so much better compared to what was there," he said.

September 5, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock news

DESCRIPTION:

The South Carolina Air National Guard is sharing a plane and some of its members to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Frances in Florida. Lieutenant Colonel Pete Brooks says a C-130 aircraft from McEntire Air National Guard station in Eastover is on its way to Tallahassee, Florida. The aircraft will take Florida Governor Jeb Bush and federal officials to Miami to begin assessing the damage from the hurricane. Also, Brooks says ten members of the Guard's 240th Combat Communications Squadron are being deployed to Florida. He says their job is to set up a satellite communication network so officials can talk and share data in case regular lines of communication are damaged.

September 6, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The center of Tropical Storm Frances remains nearly 300 miles from South Carolina. But the rains and storms have already reached the Palmetto State. The Lowcountry is getting the worst storms now. A flood watch is in effect from Charleston to Allendale south. Tornado warnings have been issued this morning for both Beaufort and Jasper counties, but --no-- serious damage has been reported. The rain and storms are expected to spread north and west from the coast over the next day or so as Frances comes ashore again in the Florida Panhandle.

September 6, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Frances" continues to push inland, bringing the potential for lots of rain in the Upstate and Mountains. It's a scary thought for people in Greenville who have already dealt with Mother Nature. "So you sit and wait and you get anxious and when it starts to rain, you run to the door," says Gloria Forrester, and that's just what she expects to do as Frances inches closer. Gloria's mobile home community was flooded out during last month's big storms. Gloria says, "There's nowhere for it to go except that creek right there and it fills up almost immediately." Her neighbor, Betty Butler says, "I'm afraid, it gets up to my tires up here and the creek is way down there and it gets up over the road and covers the road." The American Red Cross says the best thing to do is prepare your home and family ahead of time. According to Ashley Engler with the Red Cross, "Just being really aware of drains, making sure those are not clogged....once you prepare in advance, it makes things so much easier when an emergency does happen." Betty says she's taken some precautions with her trailer, "We have ours anchored, it's underneath and over the top, so it's anchored down good." Both Betty and Gloria plan on moving their cars up the hill and staying with family if things get too bad, but other than that, Gloria says, "You have to wait and see what the rain's going to do...I'm determined not to let the cancer get me and I'm sure not going to let that ol' flood water get me." The Red Cross will be putting shelters and volunteers on standby Tuesday, in case people do need to evacuate their homes. They also say clean out your gutters on your home and bring in any outside furniture or grills. And of course, keep your eye to the sky.

September 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The remnants from what was once Hurricane Frances fell in the Mountains Tuesday as heavy rain, but early Wednesday morning was when Western North Carolina actually saw just what Frances had left, major flooding along the Swannanoa and French Broad Rivers. Tim Carter has lived in Asheville since 1975, he says, "You see pictures of stuff like this, but you never realize what it is until you see something like this, the devastation that it does." According to Adam Groff, who just moved to Hendersonville from New York this year, "Normally there's houses down there (on Mud Creek Road) and there's no water going through them like there is now." While folks in Hendersonville stared at their flooded streets, rescue teams were saving hundreds of animals stranded at All Creatures Great and Small. President, Kim Cappler says, "Both the creeks spilled over the top of their banks and just poured into the building....It was filling up the kennel area and it just went everywhere, it just went everywhere." The massive flooding was a sight no one expected to see, especially not at the Historic Biltmore Village. Carter says, "It's just hard to believe, I just had to come out here and see, you hear people talk about it, but until you see it for yourself, you just can't imagine what it's like." But it's one thing to see the devastation, it's another to try and save your business from it. That's just what David Ross spent hours doing at Vitrim Gallery. Ross says, "The pedestals started floating, the glass was falling, we heard transformers going off, we were just scrambling trying to save what we could." Dean Pistor, with Realty World Market, "We started setting all the art on the top shelves thinking that would be enough and within about 45 minutes, the water had come up about 2 and a half feet and was floating it off the top shelves, we had to abandon the store." And get to safety and watch Frances leave its mark on one more place. Pistor says, "The scariest part was a lot of gas, lots of oil on the water, the water currents were very strong, it was hard to cross Hendersonville Road, we had to use extension cords and rope each other off." The swollen rivers started receding late Wednesday. Residents and business owners hope the water will be back to normal by Thursday morning. They know they have a long and costly clean-up ahead of them.

September 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Hurricane Frances did not make landfall here, but the storm's wind and rain are causing major damage. James Smith says he has never seen the area flood so much. "We got water coming up in the houses and the lake is overflowing," said Smith. Some of the people who live near the Pumkintown Community of Pickens County seemed to be in a daze as they waded through high waters trying to find what was once the road to their neighborhood and a route to their water ravaged homes. "You can't even make it in and out of the road hardly," commented Smith. A gauge near a bridge showed a sign of caution as floodwaters rose and a television floated down the street. JoAnne Freddy moved to the area more than 10 years ago. "I think it's worst than what it has been in the past. I've been up for about 12 years," said Freddy. Rescue workers evacuated the area as people stood by with a look of worry on their faces. Lee Roach says he knew it was time to leave when water began seeping into his home. "I packed my stuff up, got our dogs out," said Roach. However he says when he is able to go back, he fears he won't have much to get back to. "I think it's going to ruin just about everything in my house...cabinets, floor cabinets, probably the T.V.," commented Roach. The water became so high for some people, Chris Fiske jumped his truck and rescued a couple of his neighbors. "Well there was a lot of people standing out in the road and a lot of them were in small cars and small trucks," said Fiske. Now a small community is left with trying to deal with a big mess. "It looks bad, it really does," said Fiske.

September 14, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

With more tropical weather approaching, a Western North Carolina animal shelter that was evacuated in flash flooding last week is seeking cover for dogs and cats being housed at a former state prison. Last week, scores of dogs and cats from Hendersonville's All Creatures Great and Small shelter were evacuated as remnants of Hurricane Frances lashed the North Carolina mountains. Now, Hurricane Ivan threatens to bring more rain to the region while dozens of dogs are being kept under tarps in open cages outside the prison building. "I just need them out of the weather for right now, and we're asking for anyone willing to take an animal or animals to please call us first to make arrangements," shelter president Kim Kappler said. Even without the weather worries, the animals will have to be moved by the end of next week because the prison is being demolished so a state Department of Transportation facility can be built. Kappler said she hopes to find a large tract where she can build a new shelter. She views a return to the old, low-lying building as only a temporary solution. About 70 "good-sized dogs" need indoor shelter as Ivan threatens, Kappler said. Volunteer animal rescue groups will take some animals, but more help is needed. Kappler said she has about 450 animals in the shelter, which doesn't euthanize animals. The old prison "is a good temporary facility," said Dr. Kelli Ferris of the N.C. State University veterinary school, who is assisting Kappler.

September 15, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The remnants of Hurricane Frances caused at least \$11 million in damage to the Blue Ridge Parkway that could take up to a year to fix, officials with the National Park Service said. Most damage from water and mudslides occurred along a 40-mile section of the parkway from Linville Falls to near Mount Mitchell State Park, Phil Noblitt, a park service spokesman, said Monday. The Blue Ridge Parkway stretches for 469 miles through Virginia and North Carolina. The parkway's Linville Falls Recreation Area will be closed for the rest of this year. It could remain closed through most of next season to repair damage to its small visitor center and its water, sewage-treatment and trail systems caused by the rain-swollen Linville River. According to rain-gauge information used by the National Weather Service, Frances dumped more than 15 inches of rain last Tuesday and Wednesday on the area near Linville Falls. The heavy rains also caused major problems on the road itself from south of Linville Falls to near

Mount Mitchell. Surging runoff washed out the road in at least four spots and cracked the pavement in one place. The storm also caused problems at South Mountains State Park in Burke County. It will be closed indefinitely to repair flood damage to three vehicular bridges on the main road and several pedestrian bridges along a trail leading to a waterfall within the park, said Charlie Peek, a spokesman for the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. Forecasts show possibly more problems on the way. Projected tracks of Hurricane Ivan, expected to threaten the Gulf Coast this week, have it possibly heading northeast toward Western North Carolina.

September 15, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Television airwaves are filling up with negative messages about the candidates vying to replace U.S. Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings and it's only going to get worse until the election, experts say. Taxes dominate the latest ads in which Democrat Inez Tenenbaum charges her Republican opponent wants to create a 23-cent federal sales tax, while DeMint answers that Tenenbaum supports a \$1 billion state sales tax increase. Both candidates claim the attacks are misleading or false, and each denies their ads are political attacks. "Of course it is," said Lester Duhe, a political media consultant in Columbia. "Negative emotions are very, very strong and in many instances they're a lot stronger than positive ones," Duhe said. The candidates also have had third-party help spreading negative messages. Since Aug. 1, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee has spent \$800,000 on television spots slamming DeMint in nearly every television market across the state, said the group's spokeswoman Cara Morris. That's more than half of the \$1.2 million the committee has reserved in air time, but it could spend more, Morris said. "For both parties, this is a high priority race," said DeMint's spokesman Geoff Embler. "I think it's a sign that they're getting desperate that they're having to go so negative - so intensely, so quickly - and spend so much money." Embler said he expected the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee to pitch in to help DeMint closer to the election. A pro-Republican political action committee called Americans for Job Security stung Tenenbaum with ads across the state in July and August claiming she supported as much as \$2 billion in new taxes. Tenenbaum, the state education superintendent, didn't recommend any specific plan to raise taxes in South Carolina, her spokeswoman said. "Her point was the General Assembly has an obligation to fund education," said Tenenbaum's spokeswoman Kay Packett. Tenenbaum's latest ad says DeMint's 23-cent tax proposal could devastate the state economy. "I think that she is discussing an alarming proposal that voters need to be aware of," Packett said. DeMint responded, saying he's never voted for a tax increase and is supported by anti-tax groups. But he doesn't deny he proposed a 23-cent tax increase. "If they're going to attack, we're certainly going to clarify the record," said DeMint's spokesman Geoff Embler. Political experts say this is just the beginning of the ad wars to sway voters' emotions voters. "I think it's just a matter of trying to show which candidate is more in step with the values and ideals of how people feel About paying their taxes," Duhe said. Furman University political scientist Danielle Vinson said so far the subject matter of the attacks is fair game. However, she said it's interesting that most of the ads - positive or negative - focus on DeMint. "I think Tenenbaum is going to have to make sure her proposals of her ideas are being heard," Vinson said. "I know she's held news conferences and she's talking about things when she goes out to talk to people but it's not coming out in the ads." "If she doesn't start getting through statewide on where she stands on some of these other issues it could become a problem because she is kind of unknown for people on issues beyond education," Vinson said.

September 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Health and Environmental Control has sued a sewer treatment facility at Lake Hartwell, calling it a continuing source of pollution. DHEC sued Shoals Sewer Co., which treats waste from the Shoals subdivision at Portman Marina. The suit alleges Shoals Sewer failed to pay a fine imposed in 2002 for violations in 1998 and 1999. The suit accuses the company of continued violations by releasing too much bacteria and chlorine and by failing to maintain its facility. D. Fred Allen, president of the Shoals Sewer Co., said DHEC has arbitrarily enforced regulations and has no proof of the alleged violations. The company's facility has been operating since 1973, Allen said. DHEC's lawsuit claims Allen filed his most recent appeal too late, and alleges further violations found during

inspections from November 2001 until June of this year. It asks the court to fine Shoals Sewage the original \$12,000 fine and an additional \$35,000 for new pollution violations. Allen said Thursday he's determined to make sure his appeal is heard. "They can make up all kind of charges they want to; they haven't been proved, and until they are, I'm not going to admit I did anything like that," he said.

September 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Heavy rain and wind from a downgraded Hurricane Ivan began their assault on western North Carolina late Thursday, forcing evacuations along rivers, knocking out power to thousands, and sending trees crashing into homes across the region. Haywood County, west of Asheville, started evacuating low-lying spots where flooding was certain, moving about 50 people out of the way of high water. "Most of the areas were already condemned," said Greg Shuping, emergency management director. About 20 people were evacuated from along the Davidson River in Transylvania County and taken to a shelter in Brevard as rainfall caused the water level to rise 2 feet in an hour, said Rob Brisley, a spokesman with the North Carolina Office of Emergency Management stationed in Hickory. There were no reports of injuries. A high wind warning took effect and some residents were told to brace for several days without power. "Our immediate concern this evening and overnight is the possibility of tornadoes or similar severe weather striking the western part of North Carolina," Brisley said. Emergency workers in Polk County evacuated residents near Green River and marked unoccupied residences with yellow crime scene tape, officials said. "Green River Cove is in a flood zone," said Kim Talbot, a member of the Polk County Board of Commissioners. "We need to make one path tonight to tell them they are under a mandatory evacuation order and need to leave, and we're not coming back." Friday classes were canceled for schools in Transylvania, Haywood, Buncombe, and Henderson counties. In Asheville, batteries and bottled water vanished from stores, and people boasted about the availability of uncontaminated water in their wells. "The thing is, this never happens here," said James Browne, a waiter at the Flying Frog cafe in downtown Asheville. "I went to the grocery store for normal stuff but there's nothing there." The streets of downtown Asheville were abandoned, except for students who hunkered under enclosed patios, drank black coffee and held typical conversations about trade in China and the Clean Water Act. Homeless people improvised with makeshift rainwear made with sheets of plastic. The National Weather Service had flood watches in effect for all of central and western North Carolina through Friday night. The service said two-day rainfall totals from the storm could approach record levels and "produce major and prolonged flooding across the region." The National Hurricane Center had predicted remnants of Ivan would stall over East Tennessee for most of the weekend. As of Thursday night, the storm's center was forecast to make its way slowly north through east Tennessee Friday, east to near Winston-Salem by Saturday, then south and east of Charlotte by Sunday. As the Red Cross opened shelters and residents shored up their flood defenses, the weather service predicted Ivan might move a little more quickly north and east before losing steam. "It does look a little better," said Doug Outlaw, meteorologist with the National Weather Service Office at Greer, S.C. "Instead of the potential for 15 to 20 inches, there is now just the potential for up to 8 to 12 inches." Some higher slopes facing east and south could still see 14 inches of rain, he said. Many roads may be flooded Friday morning. Emergency and law enforcement officials warned people not to risk their own lives and those of rescuers by driving around high water barricades. The U.S. Forest Service in Asheville closed all campgrounds, picnic areas, trails and public forest roads in the 1.1 million-acre Pisgah and Nantahala national forests through the weekend. All 11 state parks in the western part of the state have been closed, including Crowders Mountain, Lake Norman and Morrow Mountain. The western Piedmont — including Charlotte and the Triad area — could see 3 to 6 inches of rain, while tornadoes are possible as far east as Raleigh, according to Gov. Mike Easley. A state hotline offers information on weather, shelter information, feeding sites and road closings in English and Spanish. The number is (888) 835-9966. For TTD, the number is (877) 877-1765.

September 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The remnants of Hurricane Ivan brought steady rains, strong winds and spun off some tornadoes as the eastern edge of the storm brushed by South Carolina. About 50 people in Oconee County had to be ferried out Friday after rising water washed over a road which was the only way to reach their homes. The storm, which made landfall on Alabama's gulf coast early Thursday, brought wind gusts of near-hurricane strength that toppled trees and caused scattered power outages in the Upstate. At least 23,000 people had lost power by Friday morning as winds of more

than 90 miles an hour blew through the state's Piedmont region, Duke Power Co. spokesman Tom Williams said. The company moved crews from eastern North Carolina and Florida to handle the damage. The "good news is on the water levels," Williams said. The utility had prepared for Ivan to dump as much rain as Hurricane Frances, which recently drenched Florida and other southern states and caused extensive flooding. "It looks like it would be somewhat less than that," Williams said. First Lady Laura Bush was scheduled to speak at a fund-raiser for Republican Senate candidate Jim DeMint at noon Friday, but the meeting hall was without power as of 10:30 a.m. and officials couldn't say whether the event would go on. Residents who live along the Tugalo River upstream from Lake Hartwell were ferried out after rising waters cut off their homes, said county emergency management director Henry Gordon. There were reports of several tornadoes in Oconee County on Thursday night. "We haven't had a chance to assess the damage. There are a number of power outages and a number of trees down and some houses damaged," Gordon said. "There were no injuries which is good." Officials estimated at least 10 tornadoes touched down, breaking at least two gas lines. A tornado approached the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Seneca about 6:30 p.m. Thursday, and store workers moved 15 customers to the center of the store, manager Lee Jolly said. Most of the customers were buying storm supplies such as flashlights and bottled water. In Chester County, blustery winds early Friday caused two tractor-trailers to flip on their sides near the village of Cornwall. While the Upstate dealt with Ivan, things looked a bit brighter for coastal residents eyeing Tropical Storm Jeanne in the Caribbean. On Thursday, the long-range forecast brought Jeanne to near the South Carolina coast next week. On Friday, the forecast indicated it might stay farther south and move into Florida, if the system even survived after lingering over the Dominican Republic. "Historically, not many tropical cyclones survive the path across the high terrain of Hispaniola," according to an advisory from the National Hurricane Center, which added that coastal residents from Florida to the Carolinas should monitor Jeanne just in case. "We have a plan. Everybody knows the job they have to do," said Charleston city spokeswoman Barbara Vaughn. "If this thing gets close, we go into action." If Jeanne were to make landfall it would be the first time in at least 150 years three tropical systems made landfall in South Carolina in the same season. Hurricane Charley and Tropical Storm Gaston both spun into northern Charleston County earlier this season. The rainfall from Ivan, coming after the remnants of Hurricane Frances soaked the Upstate, was expected to fill lakes and ponds. The state has about 2,300 earthen dams and none appeared in imminent danger of collapsing, said Steve Bradley, dam safety hydrologist for the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. He said the state only inspects about 600 of the dams, those that could result in property damage or fatalities if they break. Continuing rain and wind was not good news for farmers, said Greg Harvey, the Clemson University extension agent for Sumter County. "I think cotton is our biggest concern right now. We have a lot of cotton that has opened up," he said. "When the lint is exposed to the elements, then the quality is going to deteriorate." The weeks of dreary weather also is taking a psychological toll on some coastal residents. "We are used to going to the beach. We are used to the sun shining. Part of our geographical identity is sunny paradise," said professor Steve Nida, head of the psychology department at The Citadel. "It is harder for us to handle these long stretches of bad weather that are totally inconsistent with what we are used to."

September 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Today it was the sound of chainsaws, and wood chippers. yesterday, the sound was totally different. Tim Farmer said, "it sounded like thousands of basketballs hitting the house all at the same time." At least that's what it sounded like to him and his wife, Jody as they were huddled together in their closet with their dog patches as the tornado raged outside. Jody said, "it was amazing, it happened so quickly." Just about the only recognizable thing in the town hall was a clock that stopped at exactly 3:56 pm. It remained as a grim reminder of when the tornado that destroyed the building struck. "The building was shaking alot," said Melody Scott, the City Clerk. "So I dove into the closet." It was a move that probably saved her life. Melody and City Manager Bobby Shores were the only ones in the building when it was hit by the tornado. "The walls started coming towards me, so I dove under the fire truck," said Bobby. There's little doubt that the fire truck saved his life. That fire truck is the prized jewel of the fleet, and it was covered with debris when the building collapsed. It was out of service until this afternoon when a firefighter, in a daring move, actually drove it from beneath the wreckage. Soon afterward the rest of the building collapsed. Mark Jerome is the Police and the Fire Chief of Franklin Springs. "We are switching from a rescue and recovery mode, to a community service mode," said the Chief. City operations have been moved to a temporary location nearby

and clean-up is under way. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have stepped in to provide aid to those in need. A total of 35 homes were damaged by tornadoes, only four had major damage. At least fifteen people have been displaced and tragically, one person died as the result of the severe weather. The city of Franklin Springs Fire Department lost most of the gear firefighters use to fight fires and do not have the funds to replace those items. If you would like to make a cash donation, please send your gift to: City of Franklin Springs, PO Box 207, Franklin Springs, Georgia 30639.

September 19, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Interstate 40 could feel the effects of hurricanes Frances and Ivan for quite some time. State officials say damage from the storm could affect travel for up to a year on the highway between exit 20 near Cove Creek in Haywood County to the Tennessee border. That portion of the interstate is closed, though the Department of Transportation hopes to have traffic running in both directions by Monday using two westbound lanes. The damage is between exits 3 and 4, where about 300 feet of the eastbound outside lane collapsed when the swollen Pigeon River wore away the dirt slope separating the road and the water. Jamie Wilson, the transportation division construction engineer for the area, says repairing the four-lane highway fully will require building a retaining wall between the road and the river, which could take six months to a year.

September 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The boyfriend of a Tennessee woman who died when raging flood waters apparently pushed her and her 4-year-old son off a low bridge over the Pigeon River had told her earlier that night to head back home. Danielle Forrester, 27, of Seiverville, Tenn., called Mike Crabbe about 10:30 p.m. Saturday as she headed to visit him in Charlotte, where he was working temporarily. She told him that Interstate 40 had been closed because of mudslides and he advised her to go home. She said she would look for an alternate route. The one she found was a bumpy, graveled forest service road in the Harmon Den area that crossed the Pigeon River. Searchers found her body and that of her son, Julian, on its banks Tuesday about a half-mile from a bridge where law enforcement officials and family members said they believe Forrester left the car when the engine stalled. Crabbe and Forrester's family were close by when searchers made the discovery. Crabbe screamed before sitting on the bumper of a car. He put his head in his hands and cried. Becky Forrester said she had talked to her daughter and got a kiss on the cheek from her grandson just before they left Tennessee. "She said 'I love you,'" Becky Forrester recalled. "She said she would call when she got there." The deaths of Forrester and her son brought the total attributed to Ivan in North Carolina to 10, making it the deadliest storm in western North Carolina since 11 died in 1977. Meanwhile, officials in Macon County were still trying to identify human remains found in the rubble of a landslide in southwestern North Carolina. Rescuers using cadaver-sniffing dogs found the partial remains Monday under tons of mud and debris that swept through the tiny Peaks Creek community during a landslide. So far, three people have been confirmed dead in Peaks Creek. A woman who survived remained hospitalized after doctors had to amputate one of her legs. She also lost the fetus she had carried for seven months. Macon County emergency director Warren Cabe has identified the known victims as Sharon McCollum, 54, of Franklin, Colton McCollum, 3, of Franklin, and Katie Watts of Pensacola, Fla. Watts' husband, James, remains missing, he said. The couple came to stay with family in Macon County to avoid Ivan's direct hit on the Florida Panhandle. The storm also killed two men in Buncombe County, a man in Henderson County and women in Haywood and Yancey counties. Also Tuesday, Gov. Mike Easley continued his tour of the flood-damaged area with a planned flyover of Watauga and Avery counties, in the northwest part of the state. And officials warned residents across the region to be on the lookout for scam artists. Cabe warned Macon County residents to be aware of potential scams and price gouging in connection with people seeking flood-related donations or offering repair work and services. "We will deal with those with the harshest of actions," he said. "It will not be tolerated."

Similar scams have been reported in Avery, Yancey and Watauga counties, with residents reporting that they had been solicited by people saying they are with FEMA and asking for bank account numbers and other personal information.

The Avery County manager's office said scammers have been going door-to-door while officials in Watauga County reported that residents have been getting phone calls seeking private banking information.

September 23, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Damage from Hurricanes Frances and Ivan have temporarily closed sections of two Upstate mountain trails, the state Natural Resources Department said Thursday. A 2.3-mile trail at Eastatoee Creek Heritage Preserve in Pickens County received a major hit from Hurricane Ivan and will remain closed until it can be cleaned up. Also, a mudslide in the wake of Hurricane Frances washed out a portion of the Foothills Trail near the South Carolina-North Carolina border in Oconee County. The Eastatoee Creek Heritage is part of the Jim Timmerman Natural Resources Area at Jocassee Gorges and managed by the state agency. About two thirds of the 76-mile Foothills Trail lies within Jocassee Gorges. The department also warned hikers that other trails may have many downed trees across them.

September 26, 2004

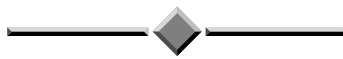
10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

With the threat of more rain as Tropical Storm Jeanne approaches, many people living in the Gilder Creek area are already packing up and moving to higher ground. They're hoping to keep their valuables dry and safe and praying Jeanne doesn't wipe out their homes, like so many other storms have done. James Lane lives near Gilder Creek and has been a flood victim several times, he says, "If we get one inch or more of rain in this area, then we're going to go under water and you just got to prepare for it." It's not the first time Lane has moved his stuff to higher ground and with Jeanne on the way, this time around is no different. "I've been moving stuff out and trying to get prepared for it, so I won't lose everything like I've been losing everything," explains Lane. Now he's turned his garden, the highest part of his property, into a storage area for his valuables. "That's as high as I can go, I ran out of room, so I can't go any farther." But despite his preparations, it's really up to Mother Nature whether or not Lane and his family will face another flood. Lane says, "You put all your valuables up and hope for the best.... You can do all the preparations you want to to get it up the hill, but once you get it up there, you can't move a house, you cannot move a house. If it floods out and floods the house, work just begins then." Lane says he hopes his work is moving stuff back to his yard, not trying to dry out his home. A Flood Watch will be in effect from noon Monday until 6 pm Tuesday. North Carolina Governor, Mike Easley activated the National Guard Sunday as the state anticipates Jeanne's arrival. There will be vehicles and personnel throughout the state with specific concentrations in the central part of North Carolina. A High Wind Watch has also been issued for noon Monday until 6pm Tuesday. Duke Power says high winds and rain could lead to power outages and suggest people prepare by getting flashlights and batteries ready in advance of the storms. If you do lose power, call 1-800-POWER-ON. Remember, stay away from fallen or damaged power lines and never touch lines, limbs or trees that have fallen on or near power lines.

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

DATE

TIME

PROGRAM

Sundays

10:00 am

FOX NEWS SUNDAY

(airs weekly)

11:00 am

Moves to 11:00am time period on September 19, 2004

DESCRIPTION:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

July 8, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

Two lawmakers want state agents to investigate how the South Carolina Election Commission awarded statewide voting machine contracts. Sen. Jake Knotts, R-West Columbia, and Greg Gregory, R-Lancaster, sent a letter to the State Law Enforcement Division earlier this week. The letter includes allegations that commission director Marci Andino picket Nebraska-based Election Systems & Software for the \$36 million contract because she had a preexisting relationship with the company. That and other complaints were made by Scott Borchardt, president of Palmetto UniLect, one of the companies passed over for the contract. SLED spokesman Lt. Mike Brown confirmed that Chief Robert Stewart received the letter Wednesday and said the agency would seek legal advice on the matter. Some of the allegations center around Andino, who worked for computer company Unisys before taking over the commission. In 2002, Election Systems & Software and Unisys teamed up to bid for Georgia's statewide voting system. The companies later formed an alliance to provide statewide voter registration systems nationwide. Andino worked for Unisys during its partnership with Election Systems & Software in Georgia, but she denied a conflict because Unisys isn't involved in the South Carolina deal. She also denied influencing the selection committee. Election Systems & Software beat out seven companies for the original contract. Palmetto UniLect was one of three companies to file complaints against the commission, which ultimately led state officials to start the process again. The deadline for new proposals is Friday. Andino said she had not seen the letter and could not comment on the accusations. "I can tell you that the procurement code was followed," she said. The dispute began after President Bush signed the Help America Vote Act into law in October 2002. South Carolina got \$48 million of the nearly \$4 billion authorized nationwide by the act to implement and maintain a centralized and uniform statewide computerized voter registration list by 2004. Knotts and Gregory have been critics of the Election Commission's plan to use a single voting system statewide since the proposal was brought up. "There have been a lot of rumors, innuendos and accusations submitted to me," Knotts said. I just felt it was time to clear the air so we can put this thing to bed once and for all and move forward." The plan needs to be in place by midsummer to prepare for November's general election. The state could lose \$2 million in federal funds if it isn't in place, Andino said.

July 11, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Government debt nearly doubled in South Carolina from 1998 through 2002, giving the state the second-fastest growth rate in the nation, U.S. Census figures show. The total debt burden rose by 94.9 percent to \$10.1 billion in 2002 from 1998, according to the Census figures and an analysis by The Associated Press. Total debt rose faster only in North Dakota, where borrowing and other obligations increased 95.1 percent to \$1.7 billion during the same period. On a per capita basis, South Carolina's debt grew 82 percent to \$2,465 per person during the period. That's also the nation's second fastest growth rate behind North Dakota's 96 percent increase. The AP analysis was based on an annual federal survey of state government finances. The analysis covers indebtedness from 1992 to 2002, the most recent year for which data is available. The information is compiled by the Census Bureau, which collects the statistics from state government audits, budgets and other financial reports. The bureau's figures attempt to capture all sorts of state obligations, not just the bonds that governments issue to build schools, bridges and sewer systems. It also includes public debt that might benefit the private sector for pollution control or industrial development. Some say that measure might be too broad. Borrowing by the state and agencies currently tops \$5 billion, said Rick Harmon, who oversees state bonds for the South Carolina treasurer's office. The Census Bureau figures appear to include about \$6.2 billion in borrowing by counties, special purpose districts and public school systems currently outstanding, he said. "That's not really the state's obligation," Harmon said. Local governments can go to voters to get approval for substantial increases in debt for projects that include building new schools, Harmon said. Local borrowing for schools is in addition to nearly \$1 billion the state has borrowed since 1999 to repair or build public schools and colleges around the state. The numbers raise eyebrows. "Obviously No. 2 in the nation isn't where you want to be on this particular ranking, particularly in a state where we're already spending 130 percent of the national average on the cost of government," Gov. Mark Sanford's spokesman Will Folks said. The Census figures show the state has been too ready to reach for its credit card. State Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom said. "We've seen what I regard as a very unfortunate ramp-up in our overall debt," Eckstrom said. The State Constitution limits the debt burden by saying payments can't exceed 5 percent of the budget. But lawmakers have repeatedly spend to that limit in recent years. "It's good to never push yourself to the absolute limit when it comes to access to capital," Eckstrom said. In just the past couple of years, the General Assembly has passed bills raising the state's debt cap by a half-percentage point for economic development and another half-percentage point for college research programs. But the state has been prudent with its borrowing, State Treasurer Grady Patterson said. "We watch our debt in this state", and that's helped maintain the best debt ratings with credit agencies, he said. In a "poor state like South Carolina," leaders "have to borrow money...to meet the needs of the people," Patterson said. That's what led him to push for borrowing money to fix or replace ramshackle schools in 1999. To "get out of that terrible situation, you have to borrow money," Patterson said.

July 22, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION

A panel of administrative law judges says Greenville businesses can't begin selling beer and wine on Sundays, contrary to a state Revenue Department ruling last year. The Revenue Department had said a June 2000 vote to allow Sunday beer and wine restaurant sales in Greenville – and similar referendums statewide – included alcohol sold in supermarkets and convenience stores. When Piedmont Petroleum, BI-LO, Publix and Wal-Mart requested Greenville permits, the city appealed the agency's decision. The panel heard arguments in February and released a decision Wednesday saying Greenville's residents voted only on whether beer and wine sales would be allowed in restaurants, not other retail businesses. Danny Brazell, revenue department spokesman, said the agency is reviewing the ruling to see how it will affect other cities and counties. "It's a good ruling for the life of the community, and it's a good ruling for families," said Rev. Caesar Richburg, pastor at Allen Temple AME Church.

July 24, 2004

10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The city of Greenville will stop adding a \$25 state surcharge to parking tickets, city officials decided Friday to drop the surcharge that was added about two weeks ago, City Manager Jim Bourey said. A state law enacted last year put a \$25 surcharge on misdemeanor traffic tickets to help fund law enforcement agencies. Greenville officials began tracing the surcharge on parking violations after the state's Courts Administration told Greenville Judge Matt Hawley that the law applied to them, Bourey said. State officials said this week the fine should not be assessed for violations that result from staying in a parking space longer than allowed by a time meter, Bourey said. The surcharge will be deducted from more than 700 tickets issued under the old policy.

July 27, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The biggest changes in federal overtime pay laws in 50 years are about to take effect, and you could be one of the people having to deal with a smaller paycheck. By this time next month, about six million people who currently make overtime pay will no longer get that extra cash. These changes will affect several professions, including nursing. Rita Moseley is an LPN for Palmetto Family Medicine, she says, "I think for whatever hours we work we should be compensated for and not just expected to work overtime and not get paid for the overtime." It's not a crazy thought, being paid for the time you work. But with new regulations to the Fair Labor Standards Act, overtime pay won't be an option to just about anyone making more than \$100,000 a year. Professionals including nurses, funeral directors, kindergarten and nursery school teacher, chefs, athletic trainers and mortgage loan officers will lose their overtime status and become exempt from making overtime pay. It's news that may come as a shock to many employees. According to Diane Zeager, Manager for Palmetto Family Medicine, "I don't think they're aware of legislation like this is going into effect next month and that it may be a very unhappy surprise for many of them." For nurses in particular, who are already in high demand, it could mean another hit to the profession. "There's been a shortage of nurses and I think if they pass this law and enforce it, then I think the shortage is going to be greater than it has been," says Moseley. Zeager agrees, "It depends how the hospitals interpret it, if they go ahead and make the decision not to pay the overtime, it's going to greatly affect whether a nurse wants to go ahead and be in a hospital, because I'm sure the overtime is attractive to a lot of nurses." Some people will benefit from the changes, anyone making less than \$23,600 a year will get overtime. But what does it mean for nurses who already get the overtime pay? "It may be that the nurses end up working harder for less money," says Zeager. That's news no one likes to hear, including Moseley, "I don't anticipate any nurses being willing to work overtime without being compensated for the overtime." The new regulations are set to take effect August 23rd, but studies show many companies are not ready to meet that deadline.

July 29, 2004

10:15pm to 11:00pm

DESCRIPTION:

Cut-in to the Democratic National Convention to cover Senator Kerry's acceptance speech as the Democratic candidate for President of the United States.

Friday, July 30, 2004

10:00pmThe Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Sen. Lindsey Graham says he's confident that a proposal to improve health benefits for reservists and Guard members will be approved by President Bush soon and eventually made permanent. Graham, a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, has sponsored legislation to allow members of the Guard and Reserve to purchase health insurance coverage for themselves and their families through TRICARE, the military's health care system. Under the current system, Guard members and reservists only enter the military health care system when they are put on active duty. If they are not activated, they must depend on their employer-sponsored health insurance. The 2005 fiscal year defense appropriations bill contains \$638 million to start the program, which initially will end at the end of the year, said Graham, R-S.C. The program, however, has been opposed by the Bush administration and Pentagon officials. Graham said he's optimistic that an amendment from Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and himself will be adopted, making the program permanent. "I think it will help with recruitment," Graham said Thursday. "A lot of people who are out there looking at the military as a part time job would be swayed to join." South Carolina has about 19,000 members serving in the Guard and Reserves. By the end of the year, 40 percent of the military in Iraq and Afghanistan will be reservists and guard members. "I would argue that this benefit is long overdue. The people in the Guard and Reserve have earned this benefit," he said. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the annual premium would be about \$530 a year for an individual and \$1,860 a year for a family, Graham has said. The program would cost \$5.4 billion over the next five years, he said. Nationally, about 300,000 reservists and family members would be covered under the plan. The program represents the most drastic change in the military in the past 30 years, Graham said. He urged people to join. "I am confident that once the money begins to flow, it will not stop, that Congress will continue to fund this program because it will have a tremendous affect on retention recruitment and readiness," he said. Single mother Cathey Neilsen is the graphic artist and multimedia illustrator for the Army National Guard's 151st Signal Battalion. "This gives me hope," she said. "It's definitely a benefit I want to have."

Graham said he is also working on legislation to allow reservists and Guard members to retire after 20 years of service like active duty soldiers. Currently, they cannot retire until they serve 30 years, he said.

July 30, 2004

10:00pmThe Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Great Falls Town Council agreed Thursday to fight a decision by a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that bars using the name of Jesus Christ in prayers before meetings. The council agreed unanimously to ask for a rehearing at the court. "I think we are doing what the majority of the people in our town would like for us to do," Great Falls Mayor H.C. Starnes said. But legal experts say it's a long shot. "Unless the decision is further reviewed or altered, this is the binding constitution rule in this region," said Andrew Siegel, an assistant professor of law at the University of South Carolina School of Law. In 2001, Darla Kayne Wynne, who practices the Earth-centered Wicca religion, sued the Great Falls Town Council for invoking Jesus Christ during meetings. Wynne said council members used the prayers to draw attention to her religious beliefs and ostracize her. Great Falls hasn't used the name of Jesus Christ in prayers since last August when U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan of Rock Hill ruled the prayers violated the First Amendment's establishment of a religious clause. "We are not using the name of Jesus in our prayers now because of a judge's decision," Starnes said. "But we want to." The court decision has caused some local government leaders to deliberately disregard the decision. Greer City Councilwoman Belle Mercado opened Tuesday's council meeting with a Christian prayer, knowing of the ruling. "I'm aware of it," Mercado said. "I was aware of it last night and I was aware of it before I did it." Wellford Mayor Sallie Peake said she would not abide by the court's ruling. "Those atheists on the Supreme Court, don't they know the air they breathe comes from my Lord," Peake said.

August 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The city and county governments here have failed to qualify for federal money because many roads and bridges damaged during floods a week ago were insured, officials said. More than 175 homes were damaged during the flood, and officials are hoping residents will qualify for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration for repairs. Administration officials have surveyed homes, looking for at least 25 structures with 40 percent damage. Local governments didn't qualify for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency because the majority of the \$5.8 million in damage to roads and bridges was insured, Greenville City Manager Jim Bourey said. The FEMA assessment focused on public infrastructure and properties.

August 9, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina's latest drunken driving law has produced fewer than expected convictions, and some critics say it's because the law is easy to challenge. "It's lucky that the people who wrote this law didn't write our murder statute or nobody would ever be convicted of murder," said Val Valenta, an attorney with the state Department of Motor Vehicles. South Carolina joined virtually every other state in 2000 when it limited the legal amount of alcohol in a driver's blood to 0.10 percent. The state lowered that just last year to 0.08 percent. Drivers with a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit face an automatic conviction for drunken driving. However, legislators who wrote the per-se law included several ways a defendant could challenge the blood-alcohol testing and the arrest. Defendants also could present evidence in court about how they were driving and how many drinks they had. That, some prosecutors say, makes it difficult for them to win convictions. And an attempt last year to strengthen the law was shot down. "It's almost like to get the 0.08, a deal with the devil was struck. So much burden was placed on law enforcement beyond the normal requirements of law," Rock Hill-area prosecutor Tommy Pope said. "I'm not talking about protecting defendants' rights; that should happen. But it appears that written into the statute are so many things that aren't actually designed as protections, but are really designed as escape hatches to avoid prosecution," he said. Some prosecutors have suggested to police that they don't charge people under the new law, but use the state's old driving-under-the-influence law. "With the loopholes and the extra elements you have to prove, it makes no sense to charge anybody under that statute," said Columbia-area prosecutor Barney Giese. "I can't imagine a situation where my office would choose to go under the per-se statute rather than the DUI statute." From Jan. 1, 2001, when the original per-se law went into effect, to July 15 of this year, troopers wrote 728 tickets charging drivers with violating that law. However, 32,205 tickets were written under the old DUI law, which leaves it up to jurors to decide whether someone was too drunk to drive.

August 19, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Greenville County councilman says newsletters sent out earlier this year with taxpayer money were not campaign materials. Cort Flint's newsletters, mailed in February and March, were paid for out of the discretionary fund given to council members each year. Two other council members also up used the money for similar mailings. Flint's opponent for his seat, Dan Herren, said the newsletters were "flashy" and "self-promoting." "Essentially, what it amounts to is this is a campaign piece funded by taxpayer dollars," Herren said. But Herb Hayden, executive director of the State Ethics Commission, said newsletters from incumbents are fine if they don't ask for votes. Flint's newsletter told constituents about progress in the development of Lake Conestee and the International Center for Automotive Research. Flint said it was the right time to update people on the projects. He said the newsletter had

nothing to do with politics. "I had thought about it in the years previous, but as you know those things are pretty expensive to do," Flint said. The mailings cost taxpayers \$9,273, according to records obtained by a Freedom of Information Act request.

August 19, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A Greenville County councilman says newsletters sent out earlier this year with taxpayer money were not campaign materials. Cort Flint's newsletters, mailed in February and March, were paid for out of the discretionary fund given to council members each year. Two other council members also up used the money for similar mailings. Flint's opponent for his seat, Dan Herren, said the newsletters were "flashy" and "self-promoting." "Essentially, what it amounts to is this is a campaign piece funded by taxpayer dollars," Herren said. But Herb Hayden, executive director of the State Ethics Commission, said newsletters from incumbents are fine if they don't ask for votes. Flint's newsletter told constituents about progress in the development of Lake Conestee and the International Center for Automotive Research. Flint said it was the right time to update people on the projects. He said the newsletter had nothing to do with politics. "I had thought about it in the years previous, but as you know those things are pretty expensive to do," Flint said. The mailings cost taxpayers \$9,273, according to records obtained by a Freedom of Information Act request.

August 29, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina's system of issuing license tags to car dealers is full of holes that let some people avoid paying property taxes on vehicles. The white tags, starting with XX or XP, are supposed to be used only by dealers and wholesalers and their employees. Dealers can let customers considering a purchase use them up to seven days. But the state Department of Motor Vehicles often relies on the applicant's word that he owns and operates a dealership when sending out the special tags. Dealers using these tags don't have to pay county property taxes on the cars. Local officials often don't even know how many dealer tags have been issued in their counties. In a high-profile case in June, the State Law Enforcement Division charged J.T. Gandolfo, owner of Dodgeland of Columbia and a former adviser to Gov. Mark Sanford on overhauling DMV operations, with tag abuse. Gandolfo had loaned Sanford's spokesman, Will Folks, a red Corvette for more than a week. Gandolfo turned in the tag and paid a \$625 fine. When dealers apply for a special tag, they tell the DMV how many cars they expect to sell in their first year. A DMV agent visits the site to make sure there is a lot and a sign that meets the minimum size requirements. But that's no guarantee that everything is in order. For instance, the DMV issued a license in July 2003 after an inspector's report showed that a dealership, tucked into the corner of a building in a Columbia industrial area, had a lot and a sign. The two dealer tags sent to the address were returned by the post office, marked as "No such number/street." A follow-up visit 45 days later found the business, RBM of Columbia, closed. Robert King, RBM's owner, said the company has six dealer tags that are used for cars bought at auctions for customers. The dealer tags aren't for personal use, King said. Once a dealer has a tag, his sales figures are audited about once every three years, said John Caldwell, the DMV dealer licensing director. Caldwell said it isn't done more frequently because there are only about 17 employees overseeing 5,000 dealerships and wholesalers. That means a startup dealership could get its license renewed twice before anyone verified it had sold a car. DMV Director Marcia Adams said the agency investigates written complaints and ultimately could suspend or revoke a dealer's license. If someone calls in a report of dealer tag abuse, "we would forward that on to law enforcement," Caldwell said. But no one checks to see what happens to those complaints. "We don't have a follow-up," he said. Reporting just a name doesn't do much, Adams said, because the agency "cannot link that to the dealer." Dealers are required to fill out a form that stays in cars that are out for test drives, but Adams says the state doesn't keep track of those either. "I think it makes it a little difficult for DMV to be able to enforce some of this, unless you, say, keep up with some of

these demonstrator certificates," Adams said. Lax enforcement on dealer tags costs local governments money. "We don't get anything sent from the DMV on dealer tags," said Ron Hall, Charleston County's deputy auditor. "The only thing we know about them is people complain." The DMV doesn't tell local officials how many dealer tags have been issued in their counties. "There's not a system to be accountable with those tags," Richland County Treasurer David Adams said. "In that kind of environment, it is going to be abused." Marcia Adams said the problems seem to be less prevalent in states that charge more for the tags. South Carolina charges \$20 for a tag and \$50 for the dealer license. She said other states charge about \$50 per tag and \$200 for the license. But an increase in the prices won't go over well with people in the car business. Fees and insurance are high enough, said Sam Khammash, a Columbia car wholesaler. He pays more than \$9,000 for the insurance he needs to drive cars from auctions. "It would be cheaper to drive around with the regular" tags, he said. As for local governments losing taxes, Khammash said governments already get enough. "I feel like I'm the one being ripped off here," he said.

August 30, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

This year's group of Republican delegates from South Carolina is the most ethnically diverse in state G.O.P history but republicans say there is still more work to be done. Republicans are indeed attracting more minorities to the political table. Four years ago all the state delegates sent to nominate Bush were white, this year the numbers are different. Different, but still small. Of the 88 republican delegates from South Carolina, 10 are minorities. Compare that to state democratic delegates-- a little less than half of them are black. During his term, the Bush administration has been praised for elevating minorities to the national spotlight. Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice are just two to name a few. Local republicans say those high level minority appointments combined with more blacks creating their own businesses is convincing minorities to rethink alienating the republican party. Still, social issues are what's keeping some black voters on the other side of the fence. Take for example the controversy surrounding M.L.K. day right here in Greenville. Official recognition of that holiday is still being blocked by republicans. Some republicans say they are working to wipe away that image of non-inclusion. The minority vote still counts even if the numbers are small. Of the more than 200-thousand registered voters in Greenville County, nearly 36-thousand of them are minorities.

September 2, 2004

10:15pm to 11:30pm

DESCRIPTON:

Cut-in to the Republican National Convention to cover President George W. Bush's acceptance speech as the Republican candidate for President of the United States.

September 13, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The war in Iraq may be a central campaign issue in this year's presidential campaign, but the U.S. troops serving there may have a tough time getting their absentee ballots counted. That's because deadlines for absentee ballots may pass before their votes make it home. Two years ago, a state law change gave political parties until Sept. 10, instead of Aug. 30, to certify candidates for the Nov. 2 election. The change cut 10 days from the time counties have to prepare and print ballots. For instance, Barbara Blanchard, director of Spartanburg County's Voter Registration and Elections office, said she did not expect ballots back from the printer until about Oct. 2. That creates a tight deadline for counties to send absentee ballots to people, particularly people stationed overseas, and get them back by the time polls close on Nov. 2. In 2000, about 250,000 absentee ballot request forms were sent to

military personnel overseas. By mid-July, 340,000 had done so, the Pentagon said. The Department of Defense says about 265,000 military personnel are posted overseas on bases in countries such as Germany and Italy. About 138,000 soldiers are in Iraq, and about 17,000 in Afghanistan, according to U.S. Central Command. "My nephew is in Afghanistan, and it takes four weeks to get mail there," Blanchard said. It's an irksome situation for Norma Darby. Her daughter, Dorman High School graduate Towanna Thomas, was wounded in an ambush in May and remains in Iraq. "Did they not take all this into account when they passed the law, that soldiers would be disenfranchised?" Darby asked. "They were going to be able to vote on the Internet, but the Defense Department scrubbed that because of security," Blanchard said. Now, faxing their ballots is the only way service personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan could be assured their ballots would be back in Spartanburg by Nov. 2, Blanchard said "Of course, that takes away the secrecy of the ballot," she said. House Speaker David Wilkins, R-Greenville, introduced the bill a couple of years ago. "As I recall, this was because of the timing of the nomination of President Bush," Wilkins said. "We knew who the nominees would be, but we couldn't certify them until they were officially nominated. All we did was push it back 10 days." Wilkins said he was perplexed by how long it takes to prepare ballots. "I'd hope 50 days would be ample time," Wilkins said. The change was not intended to disenfranchise anyone, "especially someone fighting at the front line for freedom," Wilkins said. "No one anticipated Iraq."

September 14, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Commerce; Insurance; Parks, Recreation and Tourism; and Labor, Licensing and Regulation departments were the first agencies to discuss their budget issues. Sanford wants to save money and better provide services. This year, he wants to rank the more than 14-hundred programs and services the state pays for. Those at the bottom of the list will get less money and in some cases could be cut entirely. Sanford says his goals include improving conditions for economic growth, improving residents' health and student performance. The governor says the first day's meetings sparked good conversation and yielded ideas. But it will be weeks before he starts making decisions about which of the services make it into his budget. Sanford is preparing a five (b) billion dollar budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year that begins in June.

September 21, 2004

10:00pmThe Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

State officials say they're getting reports of scam artists preying on people affected by the remnants of Hurricane Ivan. Crime Control and Public Safety spokeswoman Patty McQuillan says emergency managers in Avery, Yancey and Watauga counties report that residents are hearing from people who say they're representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Residents say the fake representatives are asking people for their bank account numbers. In Avery County, an emergency manager says people are going door-to-door trying to scam storm victims. Officials say residents should ask for a positive FEMA identification, and they don't need to give out their bank account numbers

September 21, 2004

10:00pmThe Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

John Edwards returned to South Carolina today for the first time as the Democratic vice-presidential candidate. The North Carolina senator greeted veterans and lawmakers at the airport and was to attend a rally for the public at a downtown Columbia park. South Carolina gave Edwards his only win in his party's presidential primary. The former chairman of his state campaign, John Moylan, says Edwards decided to return to his home state as promised. Edwards is expected to appeal to independent voters in South Carolina. Edwards is on the ticket with Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

September 26, 2004

10:00pmThe Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Waiting lists are growing for care at the state Disabilities and Special Needs and Health and Human Services departments. The two agencies have almost 7,000 residents on waiting lists for care in facilities around the state. At Health and Human Services alone there is a waiting list of 3,000 elderly patients seeking long-term care. Most of the people on waiting lists depend on Medicaid to cover medical expenses. A 1999 U.S. Supreme Court ruling requires states to whittle down waiting lists for services for the disabled. "I'm afraid we're going to be sued," said Stan Butkus, Disability and Special Needs department director, told Gov. Mark Sanford. Butkus said South Carolina has avoided a lawsuit largely by grace. "We haven't been as litigious a state as some others," he said. But "we'd have a hard time saying we're making reasonable progress, since no one has come off the waiting list in the last three years." The state has not had enough money to build new community facilities and hire enough staffers to meet the increased demand, said Lois Park Mole, government and community relations director at Disability and Special Needs. The state is required to spend \$1 to get \$3 in matching money from the federal government for Medicaid, which pays for the largest part of disability services. But the state has cut spending across the board for the past three years to head off budget deficits. "The waiting list is a ticking time bomb," said Butkus, whose agency's budget has been cut by \$26 million the past three years. State Sen. Verne Smith, R-Greenville, is chairman of the Senate Finance subcommittee on health. He blamed lower sales-tax collections for the tighter budgets that have left health care agencies short. "The whole state budget has been down for the past three years," Smith said. Smith said he thinks residents understand the budget problems and won't sue the state. "They know we're making every effort to try to provide for them," he said. September 27, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Gov. Mark Sanford wants to do away with state funding for the Palmetto Pride anti-littering program in South Carolina, drawing criticism from the fellow-Republican who chairs the effort. Sanford thinks there are more pressing needs for state money, gubernatorial spokesman Will Folks said. Sanford thinks the money could be better spent on health care, public safety and education, Folks said. "The governor simply felt this was an example of a program that we should look at funding more with private dollars as opposed to public dollars," Folks said. Sen. David Thomas, R-Greenville, said Sanford's opposition to public funding could kill the program. South Carolina roads could eventually clog with litter again, without the Palmetto Pride program, Thomas said. "I'd hate for the governor to have any other legacy other than the good, positive things he's done for the state," Thomas said. "You certainly don't want him to have 'King of Trash' around his name." Palmetto Pride operates on a \$2 million budget, most of which comes from municipal court fines, Thomas said.

September 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

U.S. Senate candidate Jim DeMint has reprimanded a campaign staffer for a derogatory comment she made about lesbians in an e-mail. Ginny Allen, director of operations for DeMint's campaign, accidentally e-mailed her comments to Lisa Hall, chairwoman of the Central Savannah River Area Rainbow Alliance, which works to raise awareness of gay issues. Allen was not fired, but DeMint, currently a Republican congressman representing South Carolina's 4th District, said in a letter of apology Monday that he had personally reprimanded Allen "according to office guidelines." "Mrs. Allen's remarks do not reflect my beliefs or the character of the campaign," DeMint wrote in his letter to Hall. Hall had invited DeMint and his Democratic rival, Inez Tenenbaum, to appear at an Oct. 7 town hall meeting to discuss issues of interest to gay voters. Tenenbaum said she would send a representative, but DeMint's campaign did not reply, so Hall sent a second e-mail. In response to that e-mail, Allen, who apparently thought she was forwarding the e-mail to someone else within the campaign, wrote: "come on farg give this dike a reply." The word "farg" was a reference to the name of the person Allen intended to receive the e-mail, campaign director Terry Sullivan said Tuesday. "It makes it no less offensive what she said," he said. "It's just inexcusable." Sullivan said Allen is still the campaign's operations director, a position similar to office manager, and she would not

be available for comment on the e-mail. Tenenbaum's campaign did not immediately return a call seeking comment. DeMint said in his letter to Hall that he was unaware of Allen's e-mail, but because the campaign bears his name, "I feel it is my responsibility to apologize." Hall said she was shocked by Allen's comments. "It hurt," she said. "My parents raised me to be a Christian and not to speak hateful of anyone, even when having a disagreement with somebody." She said she accepted the apology but thinks Allen could use some diversity training. Sullivan said he didn't know whether DeMint planned to attend or send someone to the town hall meeting that was the subject of the original e-mail. "It's not something that I think we were planning on attending," Sullivan said. "I don't know if we're going to make it or not." As a three-term congressman, DeMint has opposed same-sex marriage and supports a constitutional amendment to prohibit it nationwide. "The government cannot approve and promote homosexuality," DeMint says in a video on his campaign Web site. "If we approve gay marriages, we've in effect done that. We've changed our value system; we've changed what marriage means."

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

\

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2004

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
--------------------	--------------------	-----------------------

Sundays 5:30 am BUSINESS WEEK
 (airs weekly)

DESCRIPTION: Up-to-the-minute reports present an interpretation of each week's business and financial news for the average viewer and summarize the key economic events from around the world that directly affect every consumer in America.
 (30:00)

July 1, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
--------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION:

Employers hired less help in June than economists anticipated - adding 112,000 new payroll jobs - and the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.6 percent for a third straight month. Friday's Labor Department report presented a mixed picture of the health of the labor market as the midsummer presidential nominating conventions draw near and debate intensifies between President Bush and challenger John Kerry over the administration's economic record. Evidence of a strengthening labor market and the specter of new inflationary pressures prompted the Federal Reserve on Wednesday to raise interest rates for the first time in four years. The quarter-point increase was the first change since the funds rate was cut to a 46-year low of 1 percent in June 2003. That had marked the 13th Fed rate cut in a series that began back in January 2001 as the central bank battled to jump-start an economy staggered by a series of blows, from a plunging stock market and the 2001 recession to terrorist attacks and two wars. The Labor Department revised its job estimates for the last two months, saying payrolls grew by 324,000 instead of 346,000 for April, and 235,000 instead of 248,000 in May. The nation's factories took a hit last month, with employment falling by 11,000 after an increase of 75,000 in the previous four months. That improvement had ended a nearly three-year jobs drought, and economists had hoped to see continued hiring. Hiring was flat at construction companies, and fell in government. The health care and social services industries continued to add jobs, growing by an overall 30,000 in June. Employment in professional and technical services rose by 23,000 - led by continued gains in temporary employment firms. Temp firms have added 306,000 new jobs since April 2003, providing some ammunition to critics of the Bush administration's economic policies. Democrats and others have contended that the recent surge in hiring is occurring in industries that pay far less than the 1.2 million jobs that were lost since Bush took office. Transportation and warehousing companies added 19,000 last month. In retail, clothing stores continued to hire, but home improvement and garden supply stores did not. Neither did car dealers and auto parts stores.

July 5, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
--------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION

Even in these tight financial times, state government is offering signing bonuses of up to \$5,000 for qualified nurses. The state's top financial officers decided last month to start a three-year program to attract nurses and other medical professionals to state government. The new program allows health agencies to offer signing bonuses of up to \$5,000 for jobs deemed "critical needs" including those in rural areas, places with high turnover or where the agency has struggled to hire workers. It also allows bonuses of up to \$2,000 to existing state employees who recommend job candidates that are hired for those jobs and \$5,000 in bonuses to keep employees in critical needs or hard-to-fill health care positions if they have other offers. Officials hope the program will help the state better compete with private hospitals and clinics for health care professionals. State government typically does not pay as well as hospitals, private clinics and physicians' practices. While public employees often have better benefits than some private-sector workers, four years of state budget cuts have curtailed some of those benefits. In addition to the cash bonuses, agencies also can offer paid leave for employees to attend training and help paying off student loans, among other incentives. The state employs 2,897 health care workers, but more than a third of them are nearing retirement. "There is a looming national shortage of health care workers that is not limited to South Carolina," said Michael Sponhour, spokesman for the State Budget and Control Board. "To compound the issue, the state is required to recruit health care workers to both rural and urban locations and has experienced some of the most significant budget shortfalls in the state's history." State government has more than 1,100 nursing positions across the state. Those nurses give immunizations in public health departments, coordinate with physicians to keep immunizations up to date, and make home visits to Medicaid-eligible mothers with newborn babies. Most of the job openings for medical professionals are at the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. And those are only the jobs that have not been frozen due to budget cuts, said Ann Lee, director of public health nursing at DHEC. "I've got another 200 positions on hold," she said.

July 10, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Complaints about training and pay prompted about 40 Greenville County Detention Center officers Friday to form a local chapter under the International Union of Police Associations. Rich Roberts, a spokesman for the national union, said 40 of 200 officers voted to join. Roberts said Greenville Detention officers training for one month to at most six months. Six months is the minimum elsewhere, he said. Roberts also said the center has no trained tactical unit to remove problem inmates. County Administrator Joe Kernell said Friday was the first he had heard of the new chapter and he would not comment until he had a chance to substantiate the union's claim and investigate allegations. As government employees, chapter members will not be able to strike or bargain collectively and the county has no obligation to negotiate with them. Last summer, 19 deputies voted to create what is now the Greenville Police Officers Association. That group now has 70 members, according to Jim Ettari, a union spokesman and Greenville police detective. He said the two groups may merge.

July 26, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The biggest changes in federal overtime pay laws in 50 years are about to take effect, and you could be one of the people having to deal with a smaller paycheck. By this time next month, about six million people who currently make overtime pay will no longer get that extra cash. These changes will affect several professions, including nursing. Rita Moseley is an LPN for Palmetto Family Medicine, she says, "I think for whatever hours we work we should be compensated for and not just expected to work overtime and not get paid for the overtime." It's not a crazy thought, being paid for the time you work. But with new regulations to the Fair Labor Standards Act, overtime pay won't be an option to just about anyone making more than \$100,000 a year. Professionals including nurses, funeral directors, kindergarten and nursery school teacher, chefs, athletic trainers and mortgage loan officers will lose their overtime status and become exempt from making overtime pay. It's news that may come as a shock to many employees. According to Diane Zeager, Manager for Palmetto Family Medicine, "I don't think they're aware of legislation like this is going into effect next month and that it may be a very unhappy surprise for many

of them." For nurses in particular, who are already in high demand, it could mean another hit to the profession. "There's been a shortage of nurses and I think if they pass this law and enforce it, then I think the shortage is going to be greater than it has been," says Moseley. Zeager agrees, "It depends how the hospitals interpret it, if they go ahead and make the decision not to pay the overtime, it's going to greatly affect whether a nurse wants to go ahead and be in a hospital, because I'm sure the overtime is attractive to a lot of nurses." Some people will benefit from the changes, anyone making less than \$23,600 a year will get overtime. But what does it mean for nurses who already get the overtime pay? "It may be that the nurses end up working harder for less money," says Zeager. That's news no one likes to hear, including Moseley, "I don't anticipate any nurses being willing to work overtime without being compensated for the overtime." The new regulations are set to take effect August 23rd, but studies show many companies are not ready to meet that deadline.

July 27, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A distributor will build a \$5 million center in Greenville and could bring 150 jobs to the Upstate in five years, the Commerce Department says. SPC Transport Co., based in Auburn, Maine, will have the new Greenville center running by October to serve the Southeast. "Our company appreciates the 'business friendly' environment that exists in South Carolina and the Greenville area," said Todd Prawer, president and owner of SPC. The company was founded in 1929 as a small wholesaler. Now it delivers to 48 states, Canada and Mexico. On the Net: SPC Transport: www.spctran.com.

August 3, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A plant in Fountain Inn that provided steel cord for tire manufacturer Michelin here will close this year, eliminating 105 jobs. Sodetal USA said Monday it will start layoffs next month and continue to phase out operations for the rest of the year. The company is moving production to Tronville, France, where its parent company, Sodetal SA, is located. Sodetal USA cited "changing world markets" in making the announcement, but did not elaborate. Lynn Mann, spokeswoman for Michelin North America here, said the company has found another supplier of steel cord. She would not identify the company. The Fountain Inn plant provided only a small part of the steel cord used by Michelin North America, Mann said. Sodetal began making steel cord in Fountain Inn in 1996.

August 4, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Electrical equipment manufacturer Hubbell Inc. will move the headquarters of its lighting business, Hubbell Lighting Inc., here from Spartanburg. Hubbell said Tuesday it will transfer 235 employees in Spartanburg to a new office building it plans along Interstate 85 here. The company will spend more than \$25 million on the new building scheduled to open in late 2006, said Scott H. Muse, group vice president with Hubbell Lighting. The headquarters will include a research and development center, product showroom and a training center that is expected to bring more than 1,000 customers, salesmen or distributors here each year, Muse said. A Hubbell Lighting distribution center in Cowpens and its 70 employees will stay put, he said. Hubbell Lighting is the largest of Hubbell Inc.'s five business segments, with 4,500 employees, 14 factories, eight distribution centers and 16 brands. It makes a wide range of indoor and outdoor lighting used in houses, businesses, factories and sports stadiums.

August 13, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

South Carolina's economy grew fast enough in the past year that the state's budget ended up with a \$243 million surplus - the first in three years. Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom said the money left over when the state's books closed in July for fiscal year 2004 will be used to erase a \$177 million deficit from the 2002 fiscal year while adding \$25 million to a reserve fund. "We've seen very strong economic performance," Eckstrom said. That showed up particularly in retail sales tax collections, up nearly 7 percent, and individual income payments, up 6 percent. Tax collections began increasing a year ago, but the state's financial leaders weren't sure the trends would hold and ordered state agencies to cut spending. But "each month we saw revenue continue to increase," Eckstrom said. "We held our breath every month wondering if this was going to continue," he said. "All the evidence that we've seen telling us this economy is improving is being verified with this," House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, said. A year ago, the state was in its toughest financial mess in decades. In 2002, there was a \$248.8 million year-end deficit that wiped out all of the state's reserves. The rest was covered by then Comptroller General Jim Lander borrowing from a cash account in a move that many later questioned. A year ago, the 2003 fiscal year ended with a \$22 million deficit that was made worse by \$155 million remaining from the 2002 shortfall. Once again, the state's reserves were wiped out. Worries grew that the state would lose its prized triple-A credit rating and be forced to pay higher interest rates to borrow money. To head that off, legislators and Gov. Mark Sanford agreed to a proposal that would repay the old deficit. As late as March, few expected large surpluses. The picture changed dramatically in the last few months of the fiscal year. And last month, the state's economic forecasters said that by June 30th, the state's tax collections were running about \$252 million ahead of the previous year's. It's unclear how the 2004 surplus will affect other budget issues. For instance, on Thursday the state Budget and Control Board agreed to sell two state-owned buildings and to consider more such sales later as one way of dealing with the old deficit. The news of a surplus comes as Gov. Mark Sanford gets ready for agency-by-agency budget hearings in a couple of weeks. "Obviously the governor is pleased," Sanford spokesman Will Folks said. But that doesn't mean increased spending as he Sanford begins drafting a spending plan, Folks said. Agency spending will get "the same level of scrutiny you saw last year," Folks said. The House handles the budget before the Senate and Harrell expects that years of budget cuts may embolden agencies to ask for big spending increases. That's not likely to happen, Harrell said. Still, there's big spending coming. Because reserves weren't tapped this year, Legislators can expect to have \$99 million in a capital reserve fund, Harrell said. That money can be used for building projects.

August 18, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Associated Fuel Pump Systems Corp. will spend \$20 million to add a production line to its Anderson County facility. DENSO International America Inc., a subsidiary of a Japanese company, and Germany's Robert Bosch Corp., jointly own the plant. The expansion will not increase employment, Donna Baker, the plant's senior manager, said. Still adding the "latest and greatest technology" helps provide job security for the future, she said. Still, the expansion is "a sign that the economy, particularly with auto suppliers, is revving up," Anderson County Economic Development Director John Lummus said. Associated Fuel Pump Systems shipped its first products in 1991 with 85 employees and now has 362. Fuel pumps it produces are used by Toyota, Honda, Ford and Chrysler and some boat and motorcycle makers.

August 19, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

An experimental job switch at a Spartanburg County Department of Motor Vehicles office could spread statewide if it is successful, the agency's chief says. "We're trying to improve cooperation between agencies because we're all serving the same customer," DMV executive director Marcia Adams said. "We don't want anyone to be sent back and forth between the two offices." The switch in Spartanburg puts workers from a Spartanburg County DMV office in the county treasurer's office. Last week, folks from the treasurer's office were at the DMV. Residents have to show the DMV a receipt for paid property taxes on a car before getting they can get a license tag. County Treasurer Oren L. Brady III said the swap was first discussed more than a year ago. "Communication is the key," Brady said. "When you're seeing instead of talking, it makes it easier to understand." Deputy Treasurer Glenda Wright said she got to see what DMV workers see when information is sent between the offices. One technical issue turned up that treasurer employees will try to work out. "We looked at our postmark dates and how they affect penalties for some taxpayers," Wright said. "We'll be able to alleviate some unnecessary penalties once we get our (computer) screens communicating properly." Christie Scott in the treasurer's office spent Tuesday morning in front of a computer giving Tracey Miller, Catherine McFalls and Susan Herbert of the DMV a glimpse at some of the issues she deals with every day. "If I understand what she's doing, it's easier for me to pick up the phone and try to work something out for the customer," Herbert said. That, Adams said, is what the job switch is all about. "We want to focus on the customer," she said. "They have to come to us and we want to make it as pleasant as possible."

August 20, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

A ceramics company, CeramTec North America Corp., plans to close a plant in New York and move most of the jobs to a plant here. The company's plant in New Lebanon, N.Y., which employs about 65 people, will be closed over the next six months. The move to the plant here is expected to add about 60 jobs. The workers in New York will be offered transfer options. CeramTec employs about 115 people at the plant here. Workers who do not transfer will be offered a "significant" severance package, the company said. "The synergies and increased efficiencies which will be realized due to this consolidation far outweigh any related near term expenses," said Walt Dollman, president of CeramTec. The company has other plants in Asia and Europe and employs about 2,500 people worldwide.

September 1, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Hubbell Lighting Inc. plans to transfer 77 jobs from offices in Virginia and Ohio to South Carolina, the company says. The positions initially will be assigned to the corporate office in Spartanburg, Scott Muse, group vice president, said Tuesday. Those workers, and the 235 employees at the Spartanburg office, will be transferred here when a new corporate headquarters opens in 2006. The latest transfers are part of a restructuring that is continuing, Muse said. The jobs are in sales, marketing, engineering, finance, customers support and human resources, he said. Hubbell Lighting makes indoor and outdoor lighting used in houses, businesses, factories and sports stadiums.

September 1, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Truck Equipment Manufacturing Co. said it will build a new plant that will employ 30 people. The Charlotte company will spend about \$3 million at its site along I-85 near the N.C. state line. The company said the plant will make parts

for Freightliner's Gaffney and Mt. Holly plants, and it will make an aluminum air tank for the sports industry. The site also will be home to a National Hot Rod Association race team owned by company founder Bob Gilbertson.

September 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The state's unemployment rate rose to 6.4 percent in August, up from 6 percent in July. South Carolina's jobless rate remains well above the national rate of 5.4 percent in August, which was down from 5.5 percent in July. The South Carolina Employment Security Commission said the state unemployment rate's increase has some good news hiding beneath the jobless figure. It shows that more people are optimistic enough about the economy to search for jobs. At the same time, the state's total job count rose by 12,000 in August. However, much of that reflects government and education employment increasing by 18,800 jobs. Those jobs increased while the state's leisure and hospital industry - the state's fourth-largest employment category - lost 3,800 workers as the tourism season wound down. Trade, transportation and utility concerns make up the largest jobs category and those businesses had 500 fewer workers. Manufacturers had 300 fewer workers. Marion and Marlboro counties had the state's highest unemployment rates at 17.4 percent each. Marion County's rate was down 3 percentage points from July and Marlboro County's was down 2.3 percentage points. Beaufort County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 3.1 percent, down 0.2 percentage points from July.

September 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

When retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant Glen Sykes left the military, he wanted a job that would keep his leadership and management skills sharp. Sykes says, " Home Depot helped me to make the transition because it is basically the same pace. We are given a lot of tasks as a supervisor and it is basically the same. We are given a task and we are given several individuals who are working for us and we supervise them to make sure the tasks are completed just like in the military." Operation Career Front has Home Depot joining forces with the Armed Forces, linking america's military community with good jobs and promising careers. It's a program that helped Sykes get reaccustomed to life out of a military uniform. Sykes says, "I think home depot really cares about the military because we are putting our lives on the line and they want to be a part of that and they want to make sure our military is taken care of so home depot puts a 100% effort in taking care of their soldiers." Dana Chango's husband is an active Army Staff Sergeant. Operation Career Front has allowed Dana to keep her job when her husband is transferred across the country or deployed overseas. Chango says, "In military life that is your family but I can probably say that home depot is my second family and they definitely worked with us the year my husband was deployed to Iraq. The associates in the store are what makes the difference." Home Depot already employs more than 15,000 military veterans. The Department of Defense has a link on its website for more information and job opportunities through Operation Career Front.

September 29, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Lockheed Martin plans to hire about 60 workers at its Aircraft & Logistics Centers to handle increased work from two new \$100 million military contracts, including upgrades for the Pakistan air force. Lockheed spokesman David Jewell said Tuesday the company is looking for structural mechanics, general aircraft mechanics and avionics

technicians. The contract for Pakistan calls for modifications in six C-130E aircraft formerly owned by Australia's air force. The second contract is for repairs to current U.S. Air Force C-130s. Lockheed is the original manufacturer of the C-130 transport plane, which is used by the Air Force for airlift operations. The company employs about 1,400 workers in Greenville.

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2004**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
-------------	-------------	----------------

Sundays 7:30 am	FORCE OF FAITH	
10:30 am		<i>Moved to new time period on September 19, 2004</i>

DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 8:00am	IN TOUCH MINISTRIES	
8:30am		<i>Moved to new time period on September 19, 2004</i>

DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (60:00)

Sundays 9:00am	DAY OF DISCOVERY	
10:00am		<i>Moved to new time period on September 19, 2004</i>

DESCRIPTION: A religious program that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 9:30 am TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

DESCRIPTION: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Mon-Fri	10:00 am	MARTHA STEWART LIVING
		<i>Contract expired on September 12, 2004</i>

DESCRIPTION: A program filled with "how to" suggestions that include gardening, cooking, decorating, home repair and home improvements. (60:00)

July 22, 2004	10:00pm	The Ten O'clock News
---------------	---------	----------------------

DESCRIPTION:

Since college, Joanna Goldberg pinned her heart and her dreams on a career as a jewelry designer. Her grandmother had been a crafter, working on decorative light switches. "She gave me her kilns and enamels," Goldberg said. After a two-week class in jewelry making at Penland School of Crafts, Goldberg knew "this was what I wanted to do." After graduating from Warren Wilson College, she attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and took classes at Penland. In 1999, Goldberg knew she had arrived when her jewelry designs won a

craft jury's approval and she became an official member of the Southern Highlands Craft Guild, among the nation's oldest and most prestigious arts groups. "It was definitely important to me to get into the guild," Goldberg said. "I grew up in Asheville, going to the craft fairs. "But more important, achieving guild membership at the relatively young age of 27 allowed Goldberg to quit her job as a waitress and pursue jewelry making as a full-time business. Goldberg was one of 175 exhibitors of jewelry, pottery, woodcarving, fiber arts and a host of other crafts at the Guild's recent Craft Fair at the Asheville Civic Center. The fall fair will be Oct. 21-24. Together, the two fairs saw more than \$1 million in sales last year, according to Tom Bailey, managing

director of the Guild, which marks its 75th anniversary next year. Guild members only can sell at the craft fairs and at the guild's flagship shop, Allanstand at the Folk Art Center, which had about \$2 million in sales last year. Guild members also show their wares at the original Guild Crafts store on Tunnel Road in Asheville, the Parkway Craft Center in Blowing Rock, Arrowcraft in Gatlinburg, Tenn., and Cumberland Crafts at Cumberland Gap in Kentucky. Together, those stores combined for about \$1.8 million in sales last year. "The truth is, the guild has been a huge economic engine not only for the Asheville area, but across eight other states" of the guild's Southern Appalachian membership, according to Gary Clontz, a Haywood County potter who's been a guild member since 1981. Crafts historically have been a crucial part of the Appalachian economy. HandMade in America's groundbreaking 1994 study showed crafters contributed some \$144 million a year to Western North Carolina. "We're the leader as the oldest craft guild in the country," Bailey said. "We have rigorous standards for members to be juried in. If you're in the craft business, it's a real asset to say you're a member of the Southern Highlands Craft Guild. "Liz Sparks has discovered that, as well, for the first time this year. "When you tell people that you are in the guild, they're like 'Oh.' There are a lot of good artists who aren't in the guild, but the organization is so respected around here, I think people view you as a serious artist. For me, it was a big deal, because it provides a lot of opportunities. "The Mitchell County potter joined the guild this year, making it past the jury on her second try, not an uncommon event, according to Rebecca Orr, director of member services. "It's not unheard of for an artist to apply two or three times before they meet the standards," Orr said. At the fair, Sparks and many others will exhibit colored stickers at their booths, quietly advertising that their work is available for wholesale dealers.

August 3, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The federal Department of Health and Human Services says it is giving \$1.5 million in grants to organizations that help the poor and need and to mentoring programs for children of inmates in South Carolina. More than \$932,000 in Compassion Capital Fund grants go to four South Carolina faith and community-based organizations that are part of efforts to serve at risk children, the hungry or homeless. Clemson University gets \$792,350 as a third installment on a program it operates. Heritage Community Services in Charleston, the Palmetto Family Council in Columbia each get \$50,000 and The Children's Council in Lancaster receives \$40,009. HHS says \$548,000 is going into programs to mentor children of prisoners. "They need caring, responsible and committed adults who can be role models, counselors and teachers," Dr. Wade F. Horn, HHS assistant secretary for children and families, said in a prepared statement. Clemson University picks up a \$200,000 grant and Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources gains \$195,000 through that grant program. Programs in Columbia and Anderson also get grant funds.

August 5, 2004 10:00pm The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

In a room beneath the Full Gospel Missionary Baptist Church, flies swarm to the stench of 1,500 pounds of rotting food that was supposed to feed nearly 170 families. Down the hall, piles of clothes soaked by flood waters a week ago are starting to mildew, no longer suitable for the same City View families. A red carpet dotted with fuzzy gray balls of mold squishes under pastor J.W. Hester Sr.'s shoes as he walks to his office. Sermons he has delivered the past 50 years are scattered across the floor, countless words of inspiration washed away in a single morning. The sermons lifted a community while it fought for civil rights, while sons and daughters served in Vietnam and Kuwait, and when the World Trade Center fell to earth. The computer that stored the more recent sermons is lined with the grassy high-water mark of the flood, incapable of producing copies. The spiritual and material losses break Hester's

heart. In the next year, Hester, 67, planned to give his life's weekly writings to his two sons, who were also called to the ministry. But now, the need for food and clothing is urgent. Hester has lost the means to feed and clothe the needy, many of whom need help now more than ever. "Numerous people, older people, count on that food," he says. "My feeding them is the difference on whether they can use their money for rent and medication or food." Hester walks out to his new office - two folding chairs and a glass table under an oak tree - and watches a crew of local teenagers cleaning up. The building will be fine once it's cleaned and repaired, he said. The church's flood insurance covers the structure, but not the contents. Full Gospel Missionary, a vibrant part of the City View community, lost everything but its sanctuary. Hester lost computers, furniture, refrigerators, freezers, copiers, televisions, a deep fryer, and the flowing pastoral robes he wore every Sunday. "Some of them, Lord, I've had since the 1960s," he said. "Of course, they've been altered a few times." A fish tank in his office survived and the fish seem happy as ever. The church sits next to Long Branch, a major tributary of the Reedy River. Engineers said flood waters were exacerbated by the clogging of a culvert under a nearby street. Six trees and a Dumpster still block the stream's path. The culvert is only a few yards from Hester's home. He stood on the porch during the flood and watched the church's Dumpster float across the parking lot and lodge in the culvert. "It was like it had a motor on it," he says in disbelief. "I never realized the might of water until this." The church claims 576 members. Services will be held as usual at 11 a.m. Sunday. "I truly believe everything happens for a reason," he said. "A good reason."

August 7, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Stephanie Arnold's brother is serving with the 1st Infantry Division stationed at Camp Normandy in Baquaba, Iraq. From letters he's written, Stephanie has learned that the soldiers in the 1st Infantry need several items, so she's organized a drive to assemble care packages for the troops. Each package will include: Toilet Paper, Lip Balm, Sunblock, Baby Wipes, Body Powder, Bar Soap, Deodorant, a bag of Hard Candy, Presweetened Drink Mix and a personal Thank You note to the soldiers, thanking them for their service. If you would like to contribute to the project, call Stephanie Arnold at 864-230-6561 or 864-233-5402. The drive continues through Friday, August 13, 2004.

August 5, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

In a room beneath the Full Gospel Missionary Baptist Church, flies swarm to the stench of 1,500 pounds of rotting food that was supposed to feed nearly 170 families. Down the hall, piles of clothes soaked by flood waters a week ago are starting to mildew, no longer suitable for the same City View families. A red carpet dotted with fuzzy gray balls of mold squishes under pastor J.W. Hester Sr.'s shoes as he walks to his office. Sermons he has delivered the past 50 years are scattered across the floor, countless words of inspiration washed away in a single morning. The sermons lifted a community while it fought for civil rights, while sons and daughters served in Vietnam and Kuwait, and when the World Trade Center fell to earth. The computer that stored the more recent sermons is lined with the grassy high-water mark of the flood, incapable of producing copies. The spiritual and material losses break Hester's heart. In the next year, Hester, 67, planned to give his life's weekly writings to his two sons, who were also called to the ministry. But now, the need for food and clothing is urgent. Hester has lost the means to feed and clothe the needy, many of whom need help now more than ever. "Numerous people, older people, count on that food," he says. "My feeding them is the difference on whether they can use their money for rent and medication or food." Hester walks out to his new office - two folding chairs and a glass table under an oak tree - and watches a crew of local teenagers cleaning up. The building will be fine once it's cleaned and repaired, he said. The church's flood insurance covers the structure, but not the contents. Full Gospel Missionary, a vibrant part of the City View community, lost everything but its sanctuary. Hester lost computers, furniture, refrigerators, freezers, copiers, televisions, a deep fryer, and the flowing pastoral robes he wore every Sunday. "Some of them, Lord, I've had since the 1960s," he said. "Of course, they've been altered a few times." A fish tank in his office survived and the fish

seem happy as ever. The church sits next to Long Branch, a major tributary of the Reedy River. Engineers said flood waters were exacerbated by the clogging of a culvert under a nearby street. Six trees and a Dumpster still block the stream's path. The culvert is only a few yards from Hester's home. He stood on the porch during the flood and watched the church's Dumpster float across the parking lot and lodge in the culvert. "It was like it had a motor on it," he says in disbelief. "I never realized the might of water until this." The church claims 576 members. Services will be held as usual at 11 a.m. Sunday. "I truly believe everything happens for a reason," he said. "A good reason."

August 12, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Sandbags were readied, flood watches posted and plans made to deploy swift water boats as South Carolina prepared Thursday for heavy rains and brisk winds from two tropical systems bearing down on the state. Tropical Storm Bonnie was to make landfall on Florida's panhandle and then track across Georgia and South Carolina late Thursday. Then, in a second punch, Hurricane Charley was projected to make landfall on Florida's west coast on Friday and, like Bonnie, track northeastward through Georgia and South Carolina. The National Weather Service advised that the systems, although expected to move relatively quickly, could bring a combined 3 to 5 inches of rain to the state. By midmorning Thursday, heavy rains were falling in Greenville County, which two weeks ago weathered a storm that dropped as much as 5 inches of rain, causing flash floods damaging homes and cutting power to thousands. That storm caused almost \$6 million in damage. "One of the concerns we have is the western part of the county is already saturated," said Scott Wendelken, director of the county Office of Emergency Management. That could mean more flooding or brisk winds could topple trees in saturated areas and snap power lines. "If one of both of those hurricanes track near to us with the saturated ground, that could cause power outages," he said. The county was contacting swift water rescue crews to make sure they are in position early in areas where officials think flooding could be a problem, he said. Flood watches were posted from the Midlands to Upstate South Carolina. "If the ground is already saturated, there will be some flooding. There may be some limbs down and power outages here and there," said Joe Farmer, a spokesman for the state Emergency Management Division. Both systems were expected to move quickly across the state. "If that continues, that's a good thing," Farmer said. "We want them to go through the state and take their rain with them and their wind." In Charleston, officials kept a close eye on the storms and city fire department workers spent Wednesday filling sand bags, which are available for

residents to protect homes and businesses. The tropical weather comes as the roadbed for the new \$632 million cable-stayed Ravenel Bridge, the most expensive bridge project in state history, is being extended across the Cooper River. Workers recently installed additional support cables to protect the bridge in the event of such a storm. Without the additional support, even minimal hurricane winds could twist the cables and damage the diamond-shaped towers of the span between Charleston and Mount Pleasant. The National Weather Service warned that Bonnie could bring scattered thunderstorms, some of them severe with wind gusts of up to 60 mph. Forecasters also warned of the possibility of hail and tornadoes. An advisory from the National Hurricane Center early Thursday projected Charley would essentially stay on land after moving north from landfall in Florida. Earlier advisories had projected the storm would cross the Florida peninsula and emerge over open water before making a second landfall along the South Carolina coast. Forecasters warned Charley could begin affecting the coast late Friday, bringing tropical storm force winds of 39 to 74 mph and heavy rains. Isolated tornadoes also were possible along the coast, which is expected to be on Charley's east side - the part of the storm with the strongest winds. A National Hurricane Center advisory at midday Thursday said there was a 22 percent chance of Charley passing within 65 nautical miles of Charleston by early Sunday morning.

August 13, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Most of us have been glued to our televisions today watching the progress of those two pesky storms churning up trouble for the entire Southeastern United States. But all we can do here in the Upstate is wait and see...and let nature take its course. The Red Cross, Greenville County EMS, and Emergency Management are all in a stand-by

mode waiting to see what those two tropical storms are going to do. in the meantime, officials from all of those agencies agree that the flooding in Greenville two weeks ago has prepared them for the worst. Ashley Engler from the American Red Cross says, "Well, what were doing is getting ready, all of are assets are in place and standing by, it's just a matter of preparing for the worst and hoping for the best." Greenville County EMS is ready too...all of their equipment and manpower are just waiting for the call. Lt. Eric Lutz says, "we really are in kind of a stand-by mode just waiting to see what happens next." And the man in charge of linking Greenville County's emergency resources together is confident they are prepared. "We feel like we are as ready as we can be. We worked hard and learned lessons from two weeks ago. We're ready for this episode, but for the flood, well it's hard trying to plan for that." remarked Scott Wendelken, the Director of Greenville County Emergency Management. Greenville County residents should prepare now so you don't get caught off-guard, especially if you live in an area that is prone to flooding. He also said, "if you live along creeks and waterways pack up your stuff and be ready to evacuate if you need to." Make sure you stay tuned to Fox Carolina for the latest weather developments so you don't get caught off-guard.

August 12, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Small Business Administration is making low interest loans available to flood victims. Anyone who lives in Greenville, Abbeville, Anderson, Laurens, Pickens or Spartanburg counties is eligible. In North Carolina, victims in Henderson, Polk and Transylvania counties are eligible. To apply log on to www.sba.gov/disaster.

August 17, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Who do street cops call when they get in a jam? They call in the S.W.A.T. team. And that's exactly what happened on July 19th in Spartanburg during the hostage stand-off. On Monday, the Spartanburg County Council showed their appreciation and recognized them as heroes. The Spartanburg County and public safety Department units were both honored in a ceremony during the general session. Both groups received proclamations memorializing their heroics in front of a packed council chamber. Warden Larry Powell and Director Tony Fischer cited teamwork and joint training sessions for the successful outcome of the July 19th incident. Both teams plan to continue their training, but they hope they never have to put that training to the test again.

August 18, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The Salvation Army's North and South Carolina Division dispatched Fayetteville, N.C. and Greenville, S.C. mobile disaster teams and equipment this week, along with Carolinas Emergency Disaster Services Director Michael Patterson, to bolster Hurricane Charley relief efforts in western Florida. The Army's Tampa-based recovery team summoned 15 first-wave reinforcement units and teams from throughout the southeastern United States. Additional Carolinas resources will be requested over the next several weeks. Patterson will serve as the Salvation Army's command liaison with federal, state and local agencies, similar to his role during three of four separate stints at New York City's "Ground Zero" in the months following "9-11" terrorist attacks. At locations to be determined, Carolinas field personnel will deploy for at least 14 days to provide mobile feeding and support. Throughout the Carolinas, financial contributions may be directed to 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769), <http://www.1800salarmy.org> or any local Salvation Army office, marked "Disaster Relief." No other specific donations are requested at this time, pending comprehensive needs assessments. Under federal agreement, The Salvation Army provides mobile feeding, shelter support, supply coordination/distribution and other forms of relief, recovery and restorative assistance in cooperation with local and state emergency management operations.

August 19, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Late spring brings the Spoleto USA arts festival to Charleston. Late summer brings Spitoono, the Upstate's redneck answer, to Clemson. The three-day festival opened Thursday evening at the Clemson National Guard Armory baseball fields with live music and entertainment. Vendors selling corn dogs, lemonade, funnel cake and beer ringed part of the outfield. Spectators brought stadium chairs and even couches, along with pets and children. Milford Hackett of Seneca has attended all 24 Spitoono festivals. "I like everything about it," Hackett said. "The camaraderie, the beer, the music." Organizers estimate past festivals have drawn 12,000 to 13,000 people. Admission is free. Profits from concessions and other items go to local charities. The Redneck Performing Arts Association, the organization behind Spitoono, has donated more than \$65,000 to date.

August 25, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Actress Andie MacDowell says she feels fortunate her adopted home town of Asheville has such an interest in her profession. She'll help nurture that interest later this year as honorary chairwoman of the city's second annual Asheville Film Festival. The full lineup and schedule of films to be shown November 4-7 won't be announced until early September. The judging committee screened 240 films for consideration. Festival organizers announced on Tuesday that character actor Rance Howard, father of actor-director Ron Howard, will be honored at the festival for his 56 years in the profession. Rance Howard has had small roles in most of his son's films, including "Apollo 13" and "A Beautiful Mind."

September 3, 2004

10:00PM

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Scarlett Blackwelder, saw her 19-month-old son Calandis mauled by a dog chained in their yard last night. "Before i could even grab him, the dog already had him," she said, as she wiped away tears. In the blink of an eye, a pit bull-lab mix dog had a death grip on her young son. "Calandis was smart, he loved sports and he loved to play outside," she said. Her son loved being outside so much that last night he pulled away from his mother as she was taking him inside the house for the night. unknowingly, he ran within the chained dogs reach. "We've had two children killed so far this year in Spartanburg County because of animals chained in their back yards." said Danny Bellows, the Assistant director of the Spartanburg Humane Society. he told Fox carolina that chained dogs are very territorial and will attack anybody who invades their space. Scarlett Blackwelder voluntarily gave all four of her dogs to the Humane Society. They will all be euthanized. The brain of the dog that killed little Calandis will be submitted to a State Lab for rabies testing. That's because the dog bit the boys grandmother when she tried to rescue the child. Now the family has another hurdle. They need \$1,700 for a burial. It's money they do not have. If you would like to contribute to the family in their time of need, please call 864-320-1723 and ask for Eddie Blackwelder, the boys grandfather.

September 26, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

Tourism boosters across western North Carolina are scrambling against misconceptions that recent tropical storms ruined any hope of a splendid fall foliage season. Tourism officials say the season brings an estimated 100 (m) million dollars in economic impact to the region. Beth Anne Atkins, a spokeswoman for the North Carolina Division of Tourism, says there are still some road problems. Marla Tambellini of the Asheville Convention and Visitors Bureau says most areas weren't affected by the storms.

September 28, 2004

10:00pm

The Ten O'clock News

DESCRIPTION:

The following storm related benefit events comes from the Citizen Times Newspaper in Asheville. Benefit planned for Biltmore Village ASHEVILLE - A Roaring Twenties-themed event to benefit Biltmore Village and its businesses will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 17. Although plans are still under way, the event will feature a self-guided tour of Biltmore House and scavenger hunt, light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, and musical and other entertainment. Ticket price is \$40 per person. Organizers hope to give 100 percent of ticket revenue to the Biltmore Village Association. For more on Biltmore Village, go to www.biltmorevillage.com. Wear your heart on your T-shirt ASHEVILLE - T-shirts to benefit flood victims are on sale at the following locations: Jubilee!, 46 Wall St., 252-5335; Sprig in the Grove Arcade, 350-8898; Liberty Bicycles, 1378 Hendersonville Road, 274-2453; and the West End Bakery, 757 Haywood Road, 252-9378. T-shirts are a \$10 minimum donation and read "Gone with the flood/Frankly my dear, we could have used a dam." Proceeds will go to the United Way and the American Red Cross for their relief efforts. Help River District artists dry out An Oct. 15 event, Drying Out the Dreams, at the Orange Peel will benefit artists who suffered losses in the flood. Organizers are looking for volunteers, caterers to donate their services and artists to donate works for an auction. For more information, contact Jeffrey Ray of Barnstorm Producing at (727) 421-3355 and barnstorm1@mindspring.com. Food Lion donates to MANNA FoodBank ASHEVILLE - Food Lion and its vendor partners are donating and delivering a truckload of cleaning supplies and food to Asheville's MANNA FoodBank. Food Lion will deliver everything from paper towels and bleach to canned foods and snacks to aid residents who are cleaning up after severe flooding from tropical storms Frances and Ivan. The food bank and the American Red Cross will handle the distribution of the supplies. Residents should call the American Red Cross at 258-3888 for more information. This is the fourth donation Food Lion has made to assist flood recovery efforts in Western North Carolina. On Sept. 17, Food Lion donated and transported 8,700 gallons of bottled water to the American Red Cross and the Hearts with Hands organization in Asheville. Also on Sept. 17, the company sent 4,200 gallons of bottled water, 800 packages of snacks and 2,000 paper bags to the Haywood Baptist Relief Center in Canton. On Sept. 12, Food Lion trucked cases of goods and 840 gallons of bottled water to the food bank.